

INVINCIBLE IRON MAN™

MARVEL

#8

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

STEFANO CASELLI

MARTE GRACIA



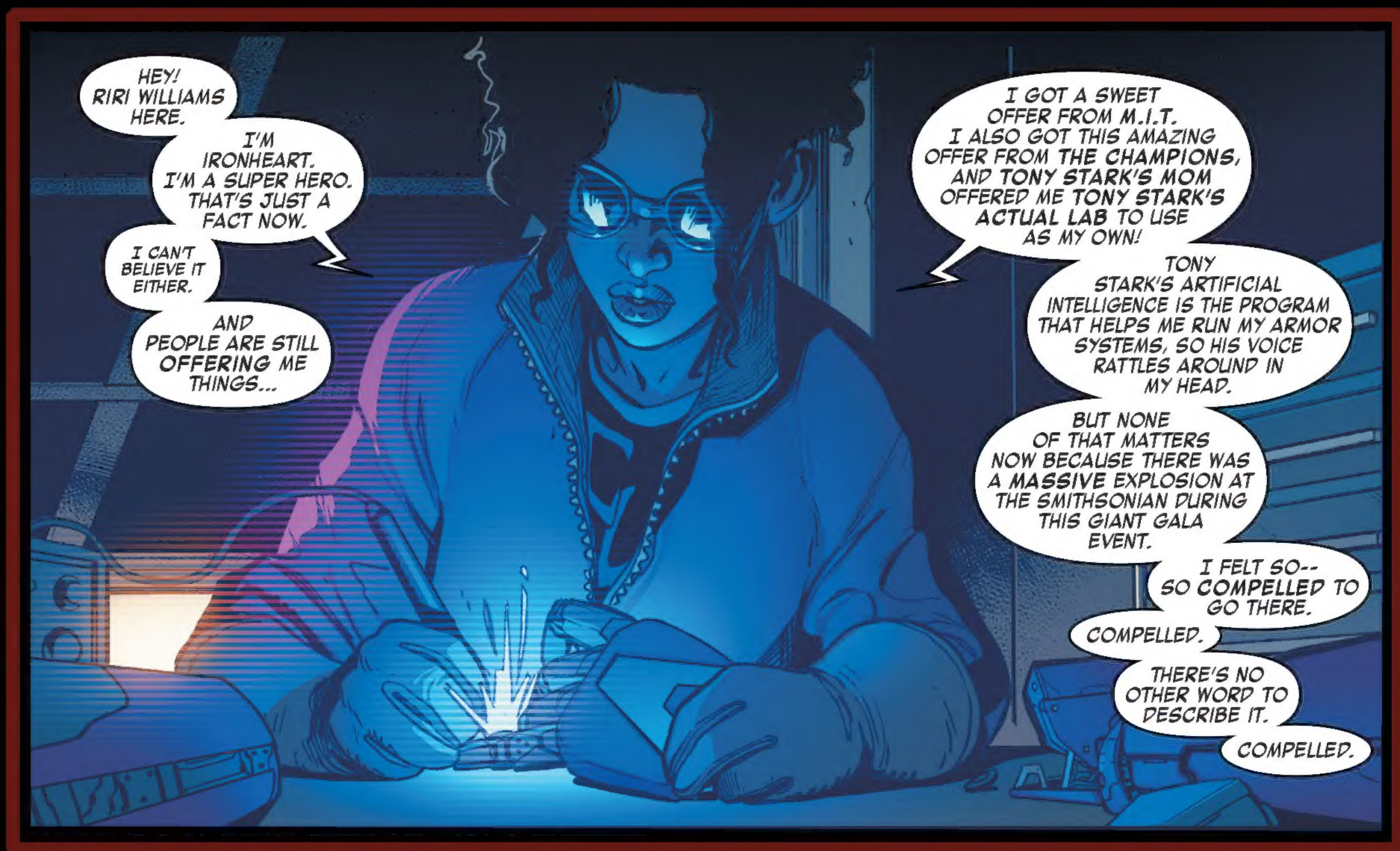
INVINCIBLE IRON MAN

**BRIAN
MICHAEL BENDIS**
WRITER

**STEFANO
CASELLI**
ARTIST

**MARTE
GRACIA**
COLOR ARTIST

**VC's CLAYTON
COWLES**
LETTERER



STEFANO CASELLI & MARTE GRACIA COVER ARTISTS
MARCO CHECCHETTO VARIANT COVER ARTIST

ALANNA SMITH ASSISTANT EDITOR TOM BREVOORT EDITOR
AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
DAN BUCKLEY PRESIDENT ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER, DON HECK AND JACK KIRBY







WHAT?

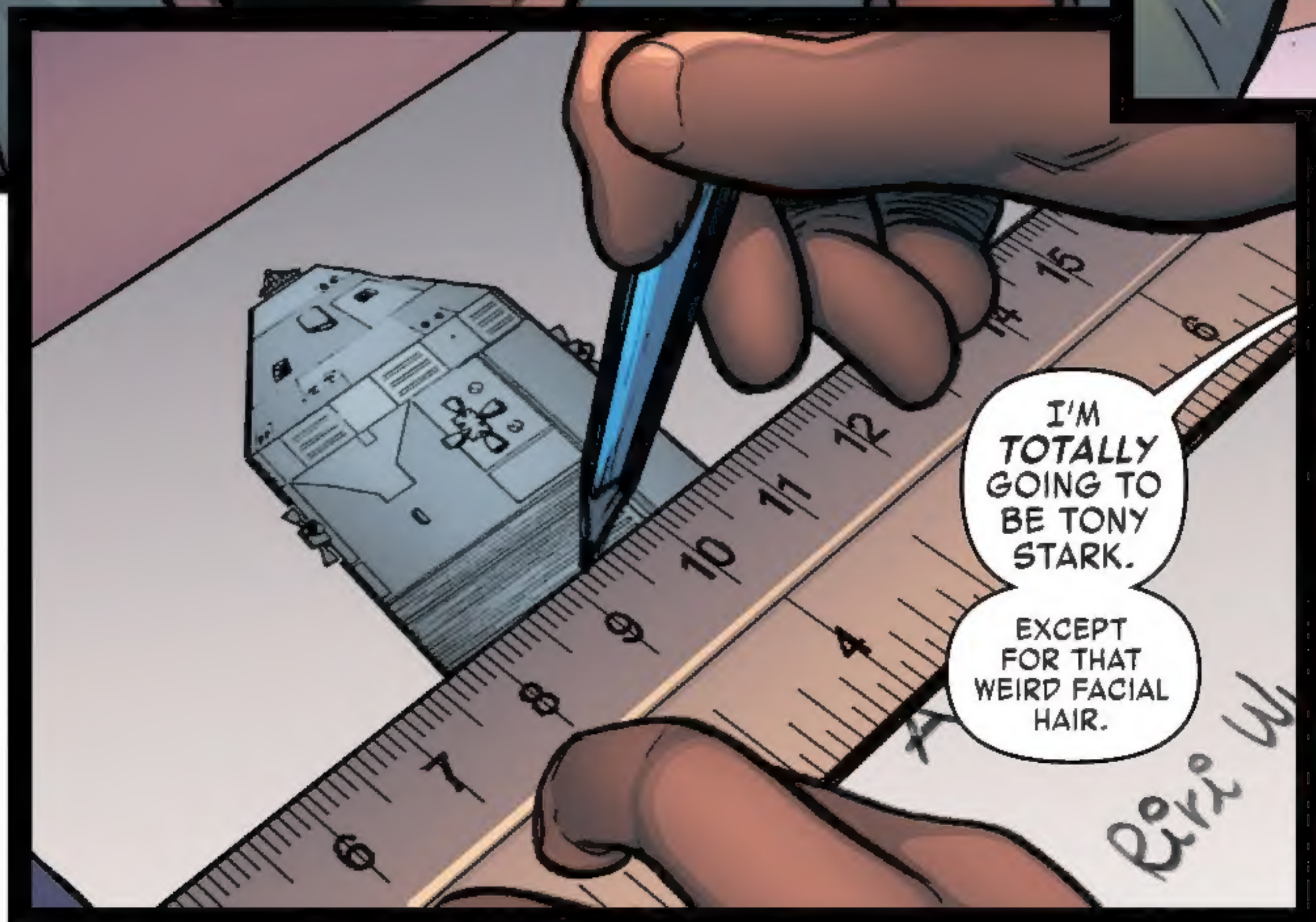


OKAY, YOU'LL NEVER BE...

...TONY STARK.



REALLY!



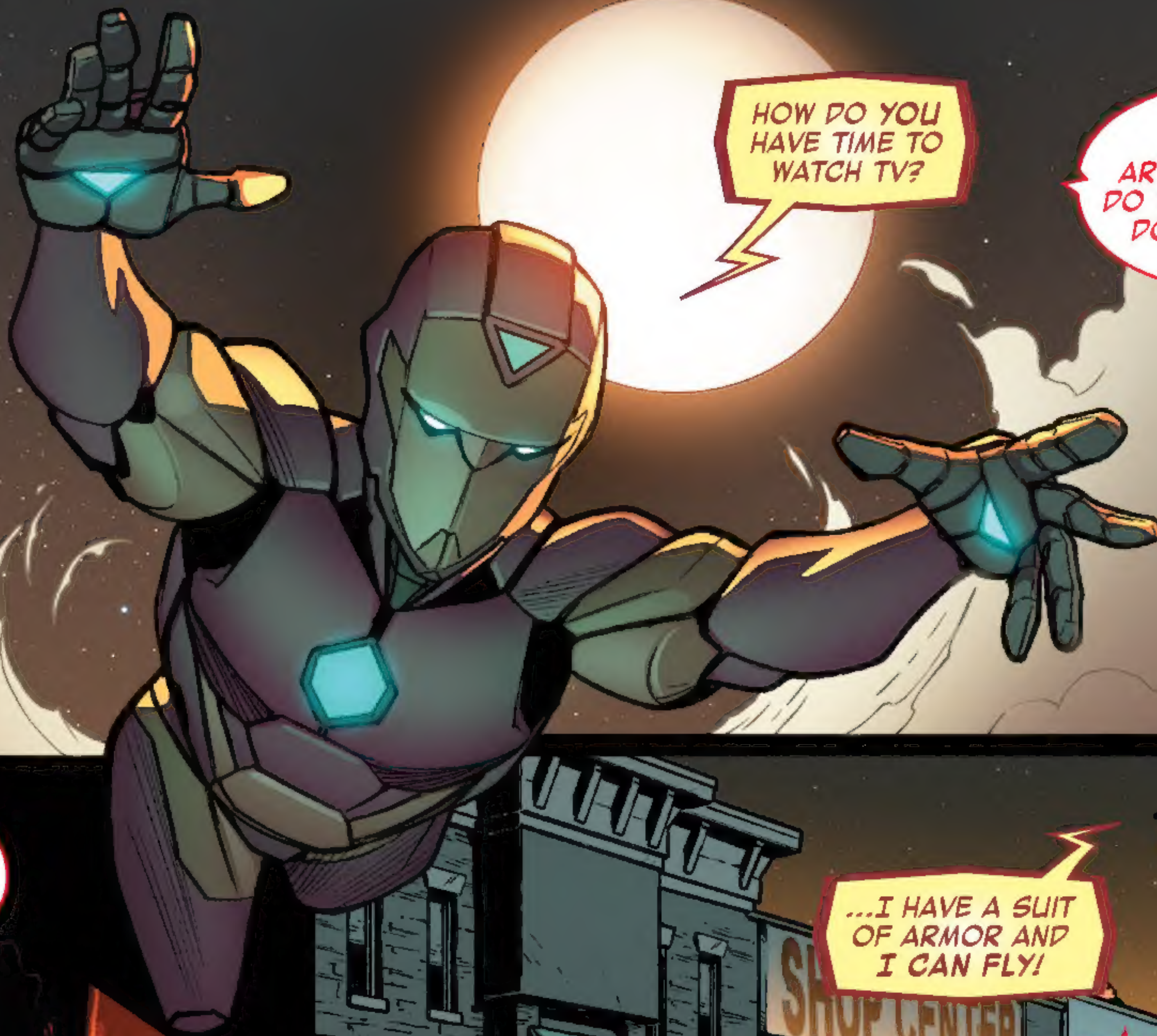
I'M TOTALLY GOING TO BE TONY STARK.

EXCEPT FOR THAT WEIRD FACIAL HAIR.



"FREAKS AND GEEKS."

TODAY.



HOW DO YOU
HAVE TIME TO
WATCH TV?

HOW MUCH
OF MY MASSIVE
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
DO YOU THINK IT TAKES TO
DOWNLOAD TELEVISION
BROADCASTS?

WAIT,
DON'T ANSWER,
I'LL ANSWER FOR
YOU.

ALMOST
NONE.

IT'S NOT TAKING
COMPUTER SCIENCE
225: PSEUDORANDOMNESS
AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY...
IT'S TV.



WELL, GOOD
FOR YOU, ARTIFICIAL
STARK BYTES, BUT NO,
I HAVE NOT SEEN
FREAKS AND
GEEKS.

I THINK
YOU'D LIKE
IT.

I DON'T
HAVE TO WATCH
TV...



...I HAVE A SUIT
OF ARMOR AND
I CAN FLY!

GOOD
POINT.

BUT...



...YOU'RE MISSING OUT ON
THE VAST TAPESTRY OF
HUMAN DRAMA.

THE STORIES
WE TELL EACH OTHER
DEFINE WHO WE ARE AND
WHO WE ASPIRE
TO BE.

WE TELL
STORIES TO INSPIRE,
WARN AND--AND
INSPIRE.

FREAKS IS
ABOUT THIS GIRL,
LINDSAY, WHO I THINK
YOU'D REALLY LIKE.
SHE'S VERY--

WELL,
AGAIN, I'VE BEEN
BUSY.

CAN WE
FOCUS...



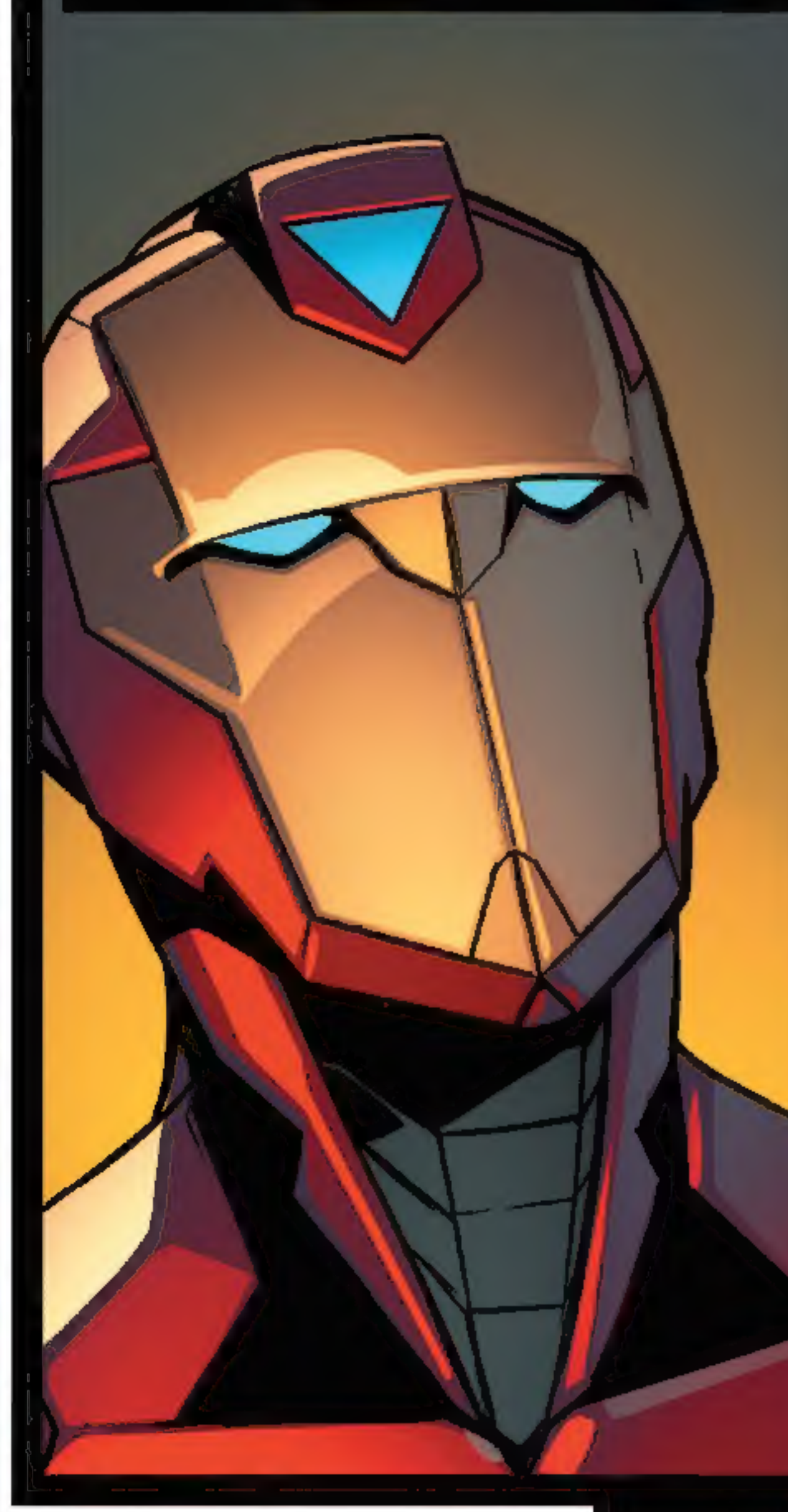
...ON THE MASSIVE
INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT
THAT IS UNFOLDING RIGHT
IN FRONT OF US?

OKAY, BUT
YOU REALLY SHOULD
WATCH IT.

HEY!



NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. PLAY NICE. SERIOUSLY.





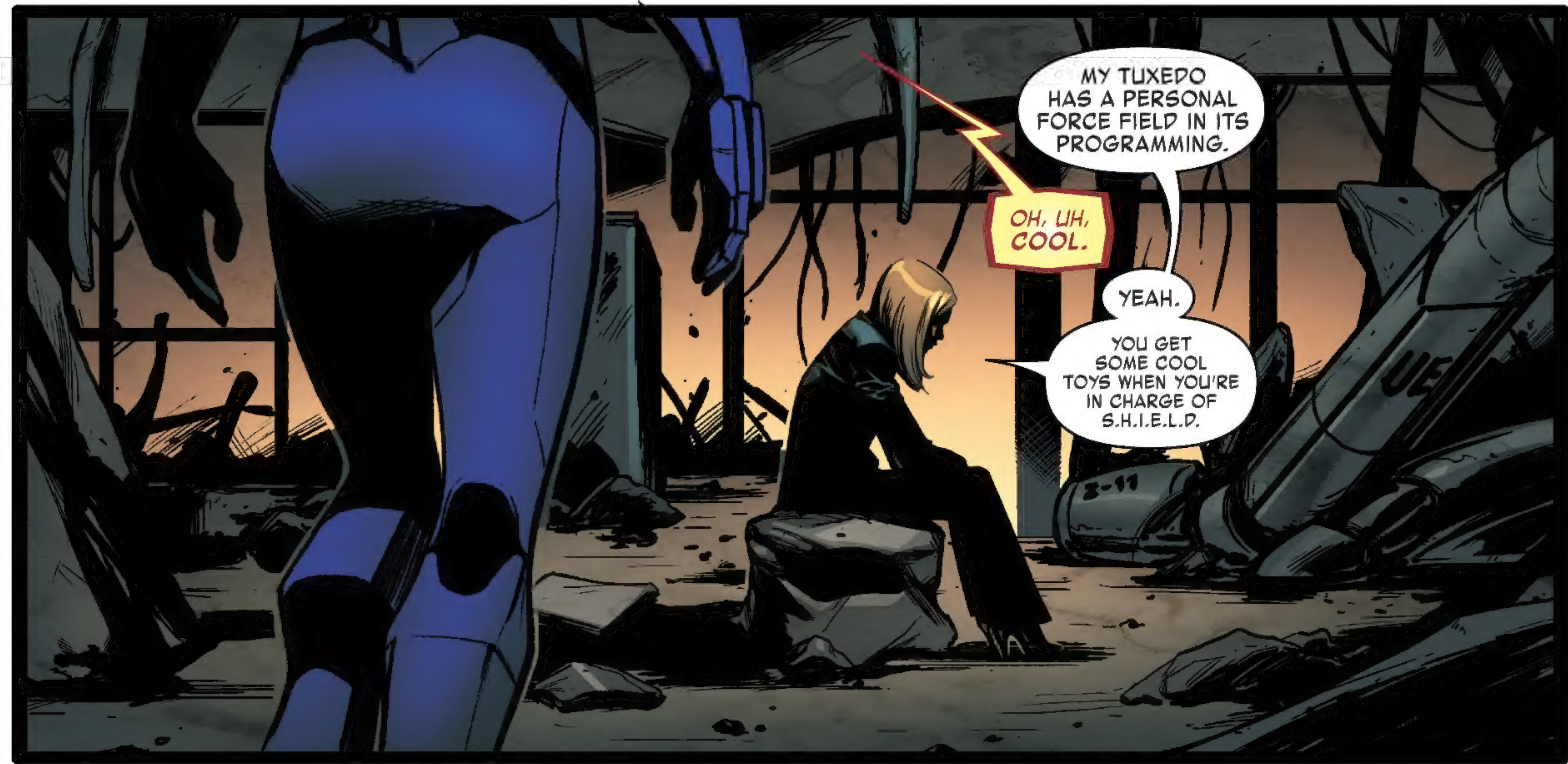
UH, HI.

WERE YOU HERE WHEN THE BOMB WENT OFF?

WASN'T A BOMB, MISS WILLIAMS. IT WAS A PERSON.

A PERSON WENT OFF.

ARE YOU OKAY, COMMANDER CARTER?

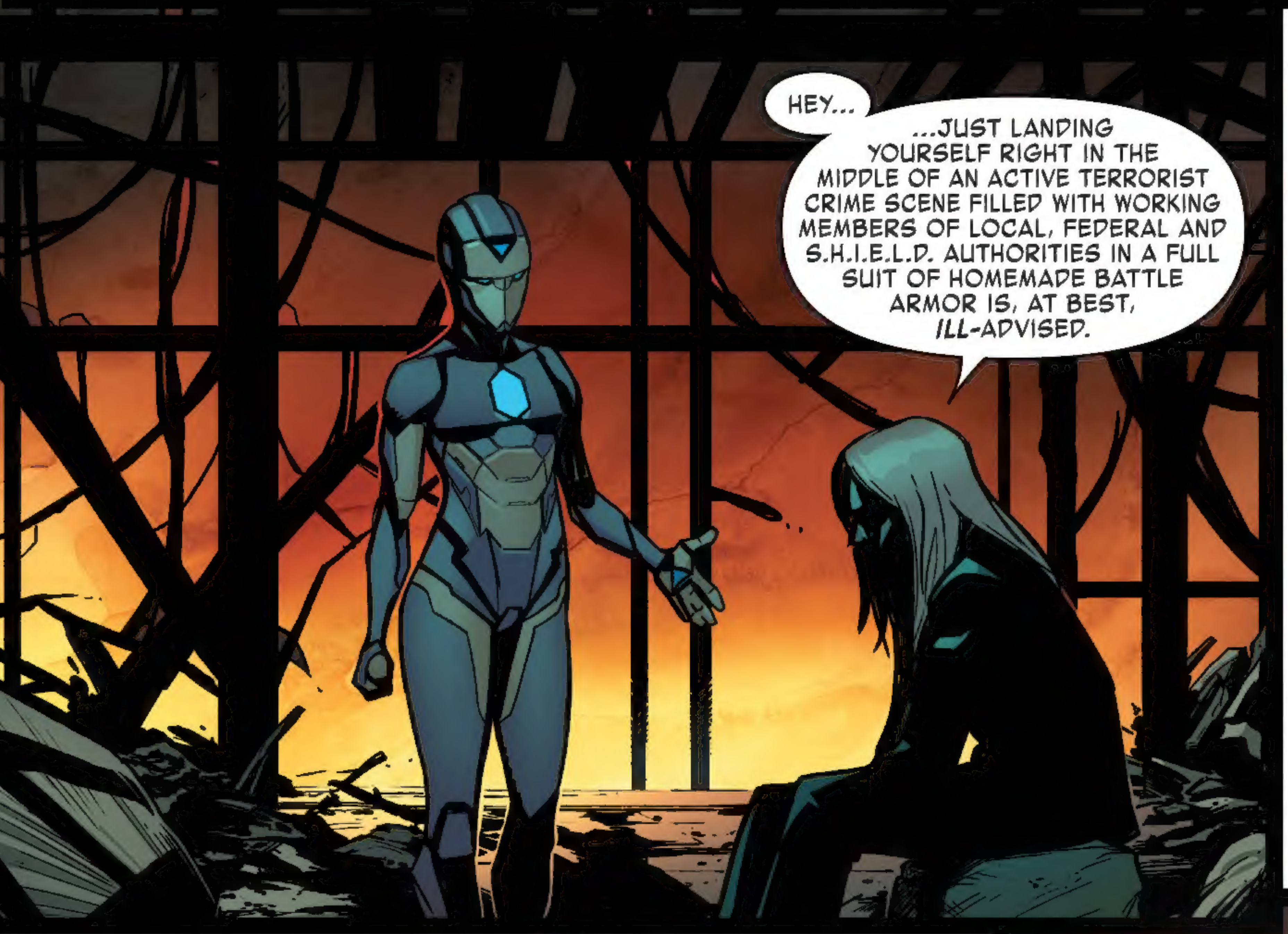


MY TUXEDO HAS A PERSONAL FORCE FIELD IN ITS PROGRAMMING.

OH, UH, COOL.

YEAH.

YOU GET SOME COOL TOYS WHEN YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF S.H.I.E.L.D.



HEY...

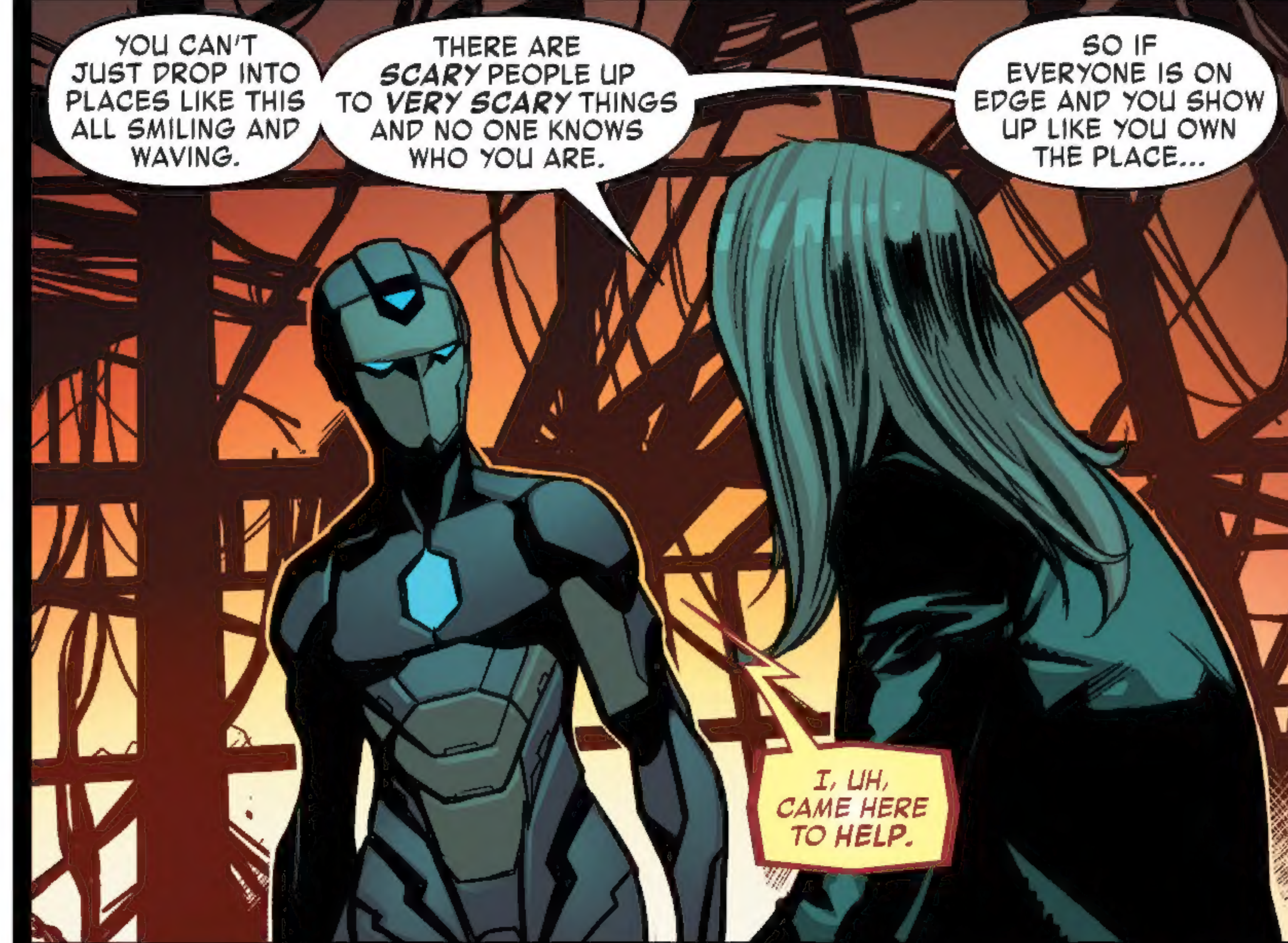
...JUST LANDING YOURSELF RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ACTIVE TERRORIST CRIME SCENE FILLED WITH WORKING MEMBERS OF LOCAL, FEDERAL AND S.H.I.E.L.D. AUTHORITIES IN A FULL SUIT OF HOMEMADE BATTLE ARMOR IS, AT BEST, ILL-ADVISED.



I'M NEW.

I KNOW.

THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU.



YOU CAN'T JUST DROP INTO PLACES LIKE THIS ALL SMILING AND WAVING.

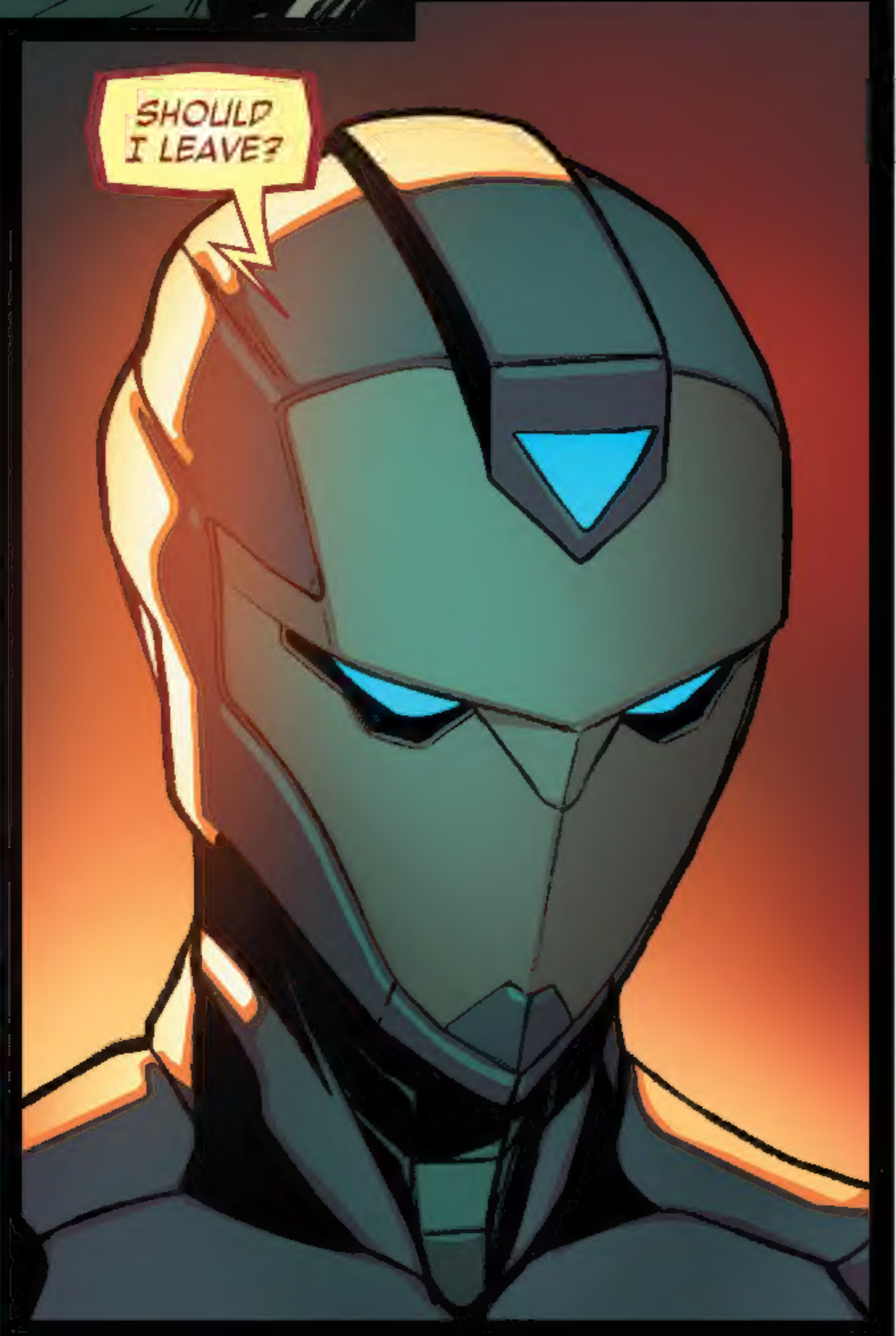
THERE ARE SCARY PEOPLE UP TO VERY SCARY THINGS AND NO ONE KNOWS WHO YOU ARE.

SO IF EVERYONE IS ON EDGE AND YOU SHOW UP LIKE YOU OWN THE PLACE...

I, UH, CAME HERE TO HELP.



I APPRECIATE THAT.



SHOULD I LEAVE?



NO.

DO A FULL ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN OF THIS ROOM.



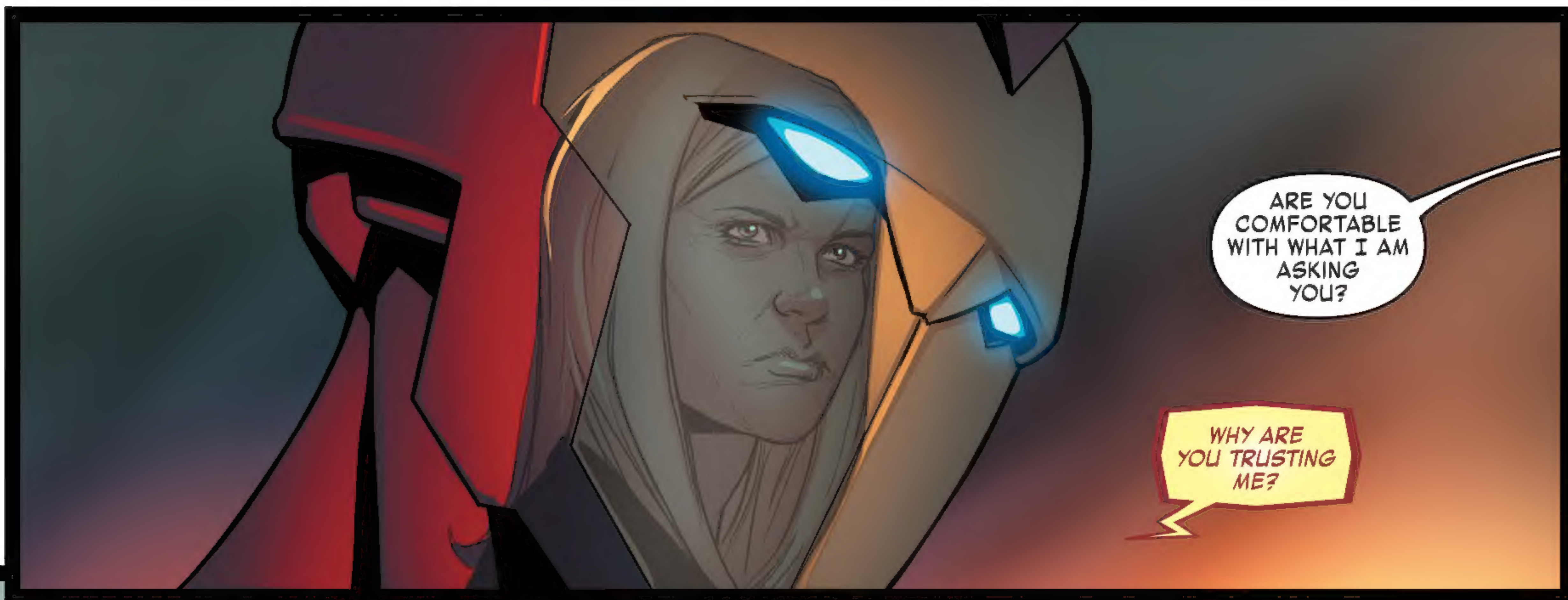
CAN I?

I AM ALREADY LAYING OUT THE SCAN FRAME.

LET'S SEE WHAT EVIL WE CAN SEE.

YEARS AGO.





ARE YOU COMFORTABLE WITH WHAT I AM ASKING YOU?

WHY ARE YOU TRUSTING ME?

THE SMITHSONIAN! TODAY.

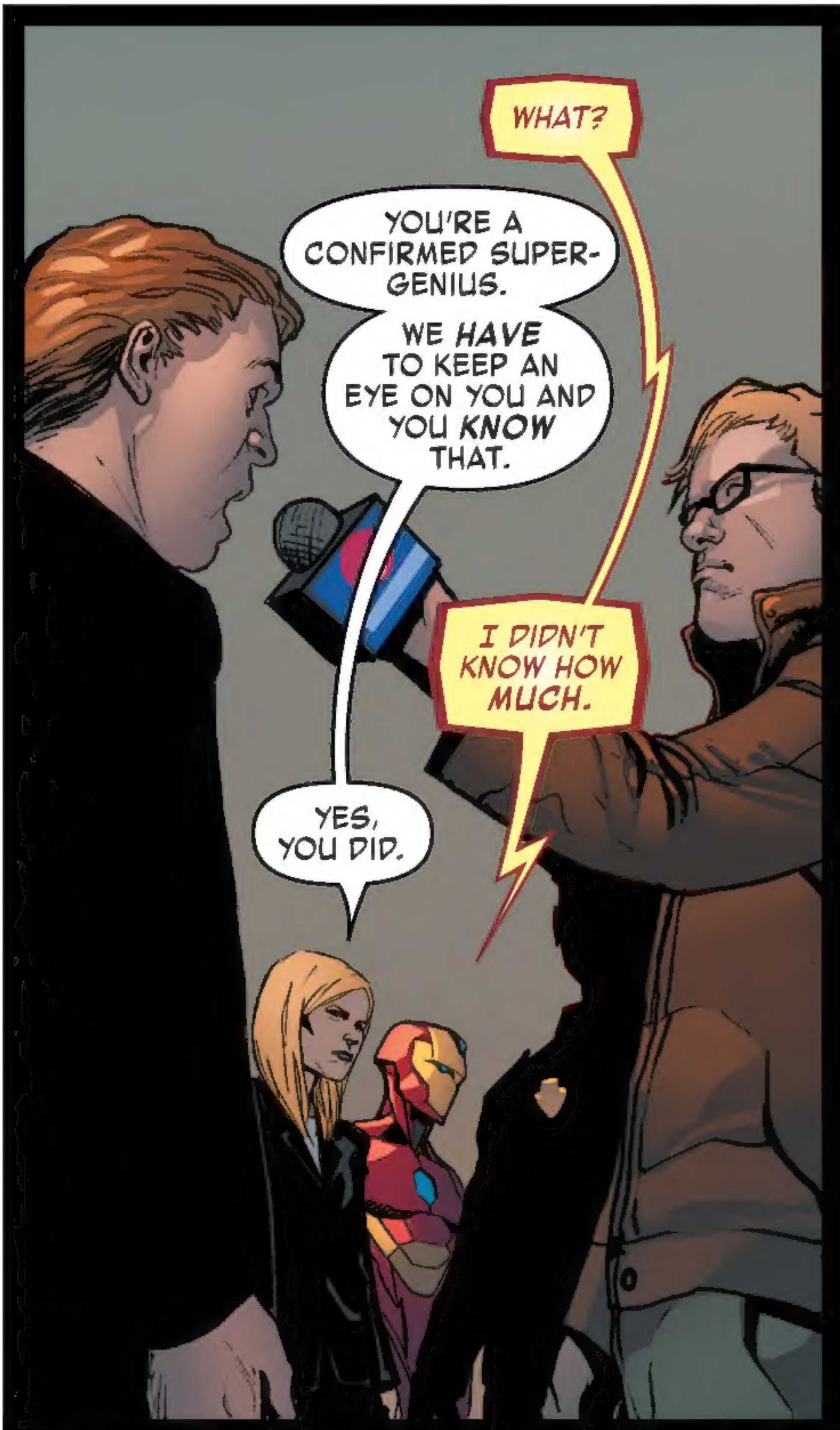


HARD TRUTH-- RIGHT NOW, WITH THIS, THERE'S NO ONE ELSE HERE I CAN REALLY TRUST.

NO ONE?

BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME.

RIRI, S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS BEEN MONITORING YOU SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE IN KINDERGARTEN.



WHAT?

YOU'RE A CONFIRMED SUPER-GENIUS.

WE HAVE TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOU AND YOU KNOW THAT.

I DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH.

YES, YOU DID.



BECAUSE WE'VE MONITORED YOU, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN MONITORING ALL WORLD EVENTS SINCE YOU WERE NINE YEARS OLD.

YOU KNOW HOW THE WORLD WORKS.



THE GOOD NEWS IS--

BYE.

THE GOOD NEWS IS, YOU'RE ON TRACK!

YOU'RE ONE OF THE GOOD ONES.

OH MY GOD!

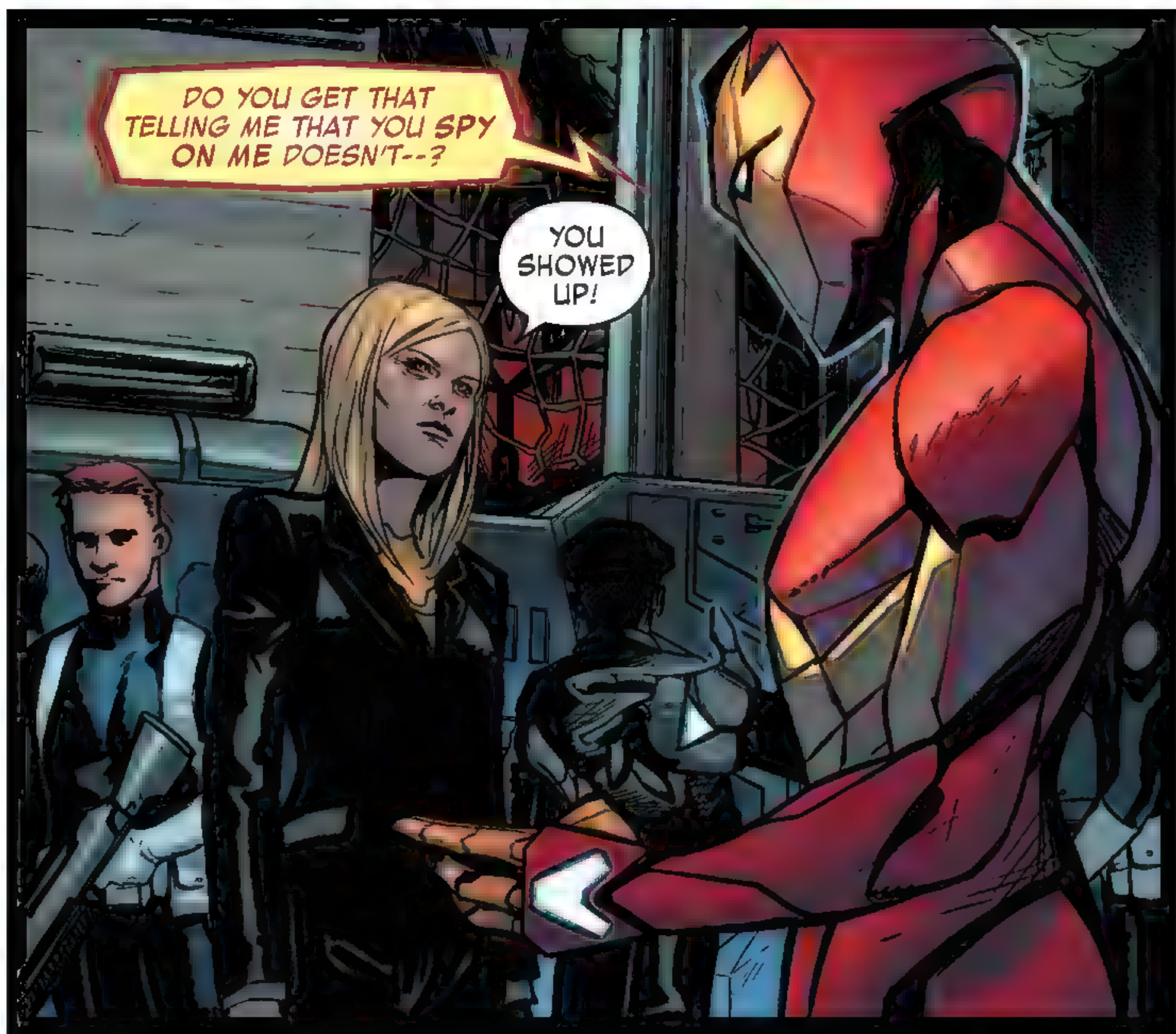


STOP IT!

YOU KNOW HOW THE WORLD WORKS!

WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS HOLIER-THAN-THOU %##\$&!

WE WERE JUST ATTACKED!



DO YOU GET THAT TELLING ME THAT YOU SPY ON ME DOESN'T--?

YOU SHOWED UP!



YOU GET ME?

NOT THE AVENGERS, NOT THE DEFENDERS... YOU.

YOU SHOWED UP.

TO HELP.

THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP.

HOLD ON...



SIDEBAR, WHAT'S HER ANGLE HERE?

BEST GUESS, SHE WANTS TO ATTACK THIS LUCIA VON BARDAS, BUT SHE PROBABLY CAN'T WITHOUT MUCH MORE ACTUALLY PROVABLE... PROOF.

SO CARTER WANTS TO THROW ME AT HER BECAUSE I "SHOWED UP," AND SHE CAN ALWAYS CLAIM SHE HAD NO CONTROL OVER ME, SINCE--

EXACTLY.

I DON'T KNOW.

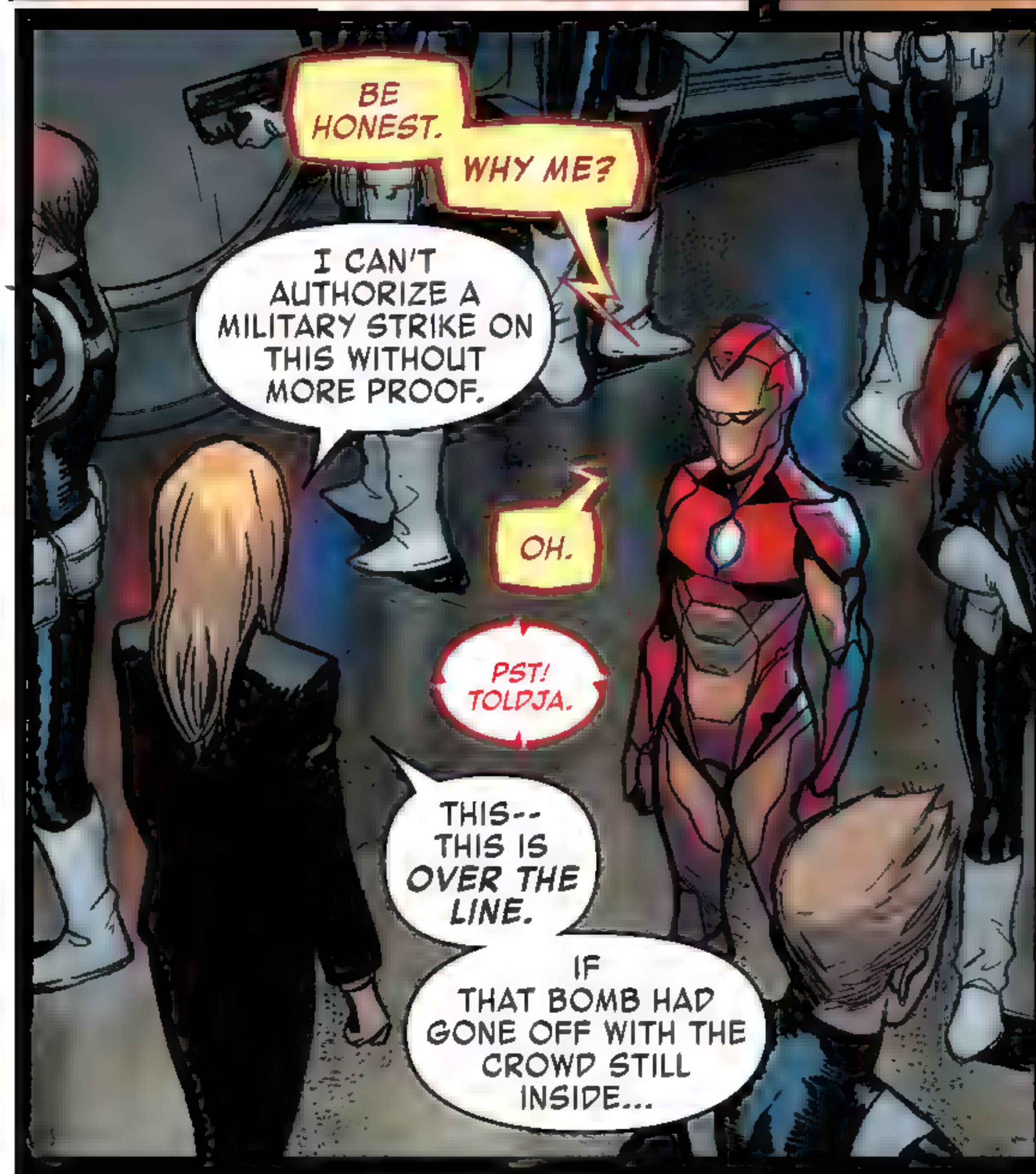


YOU'RE NOT AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

I DON'T KNOW.

I THINK IT'S MORE.

IT'S NOT.



BE HONEST.

WHY ME?

I CAN'T AUTHORIZE A MILITARY STRIKE ON THIS WITHOUT MORE PROOF.

OH.

PST! TOLDJA.

THIS-- THIS IS OVER THE LINE.

IF THAT BOMB HAD GONE OFF WITH THE CROWD STILL INSIDE...



...SENATORS, BILLIONAIRES, AN EX-VICE PRESIDENT...

...THIS COULD HAVE TRIGGERED WORLD WAR III.

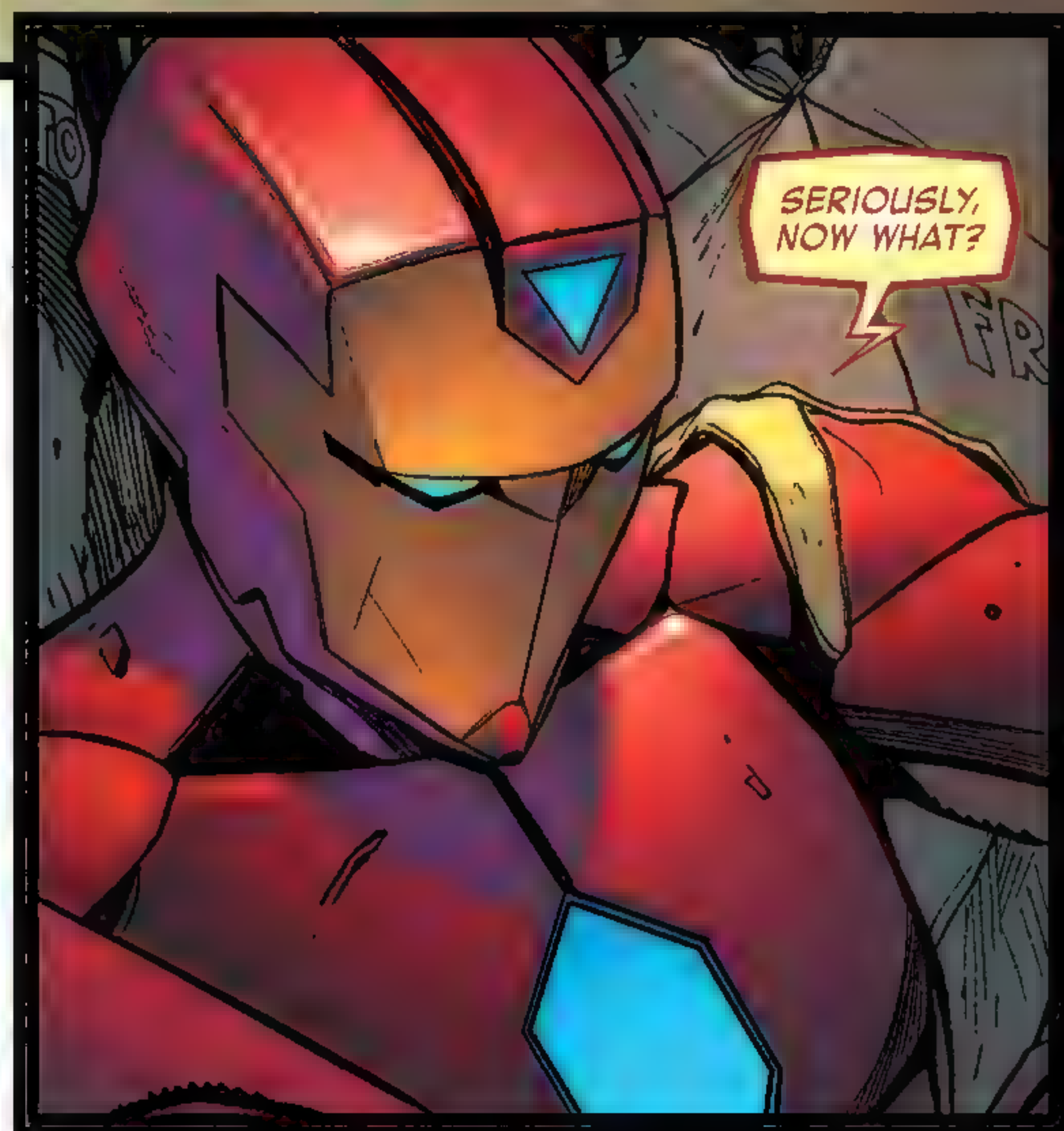
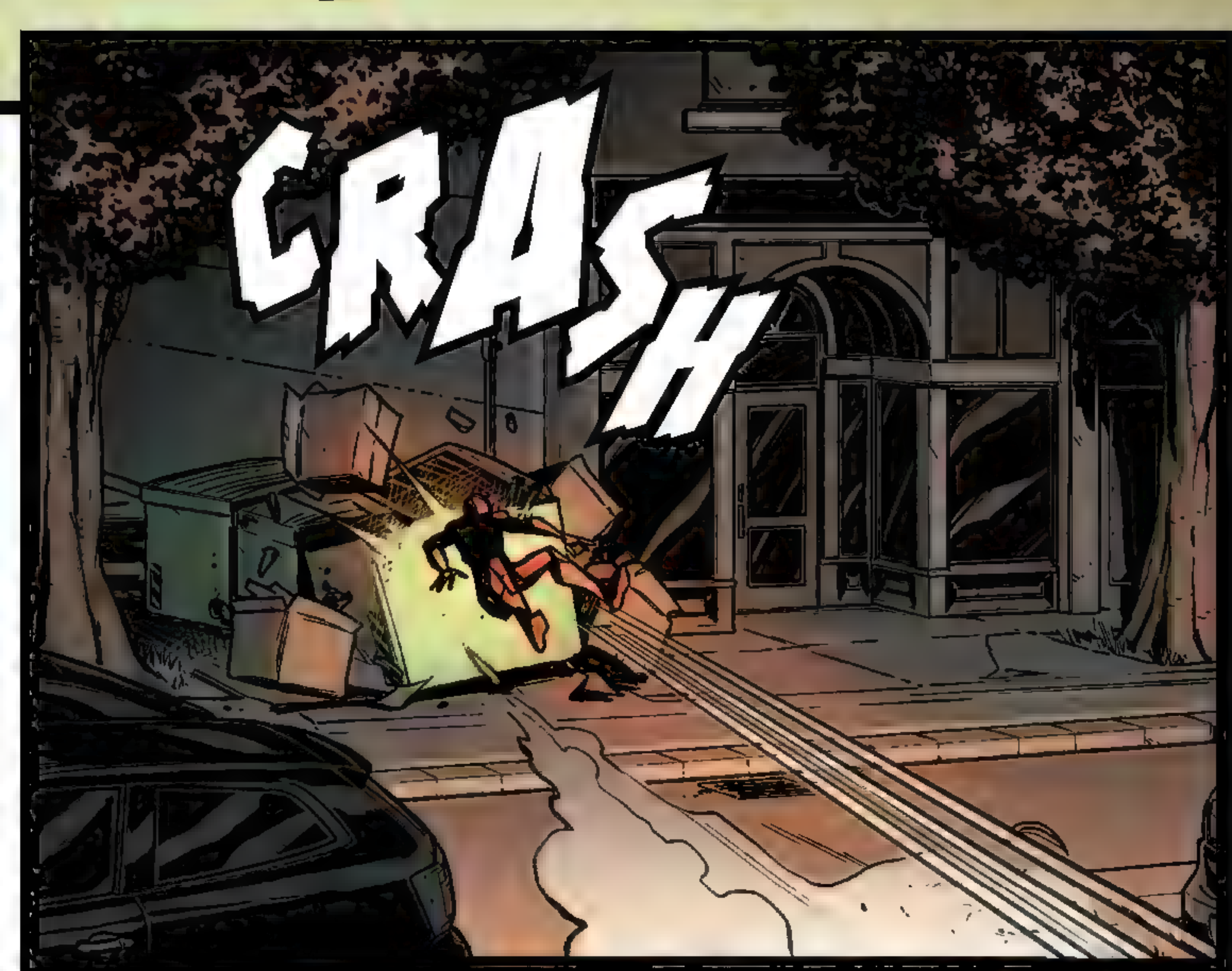
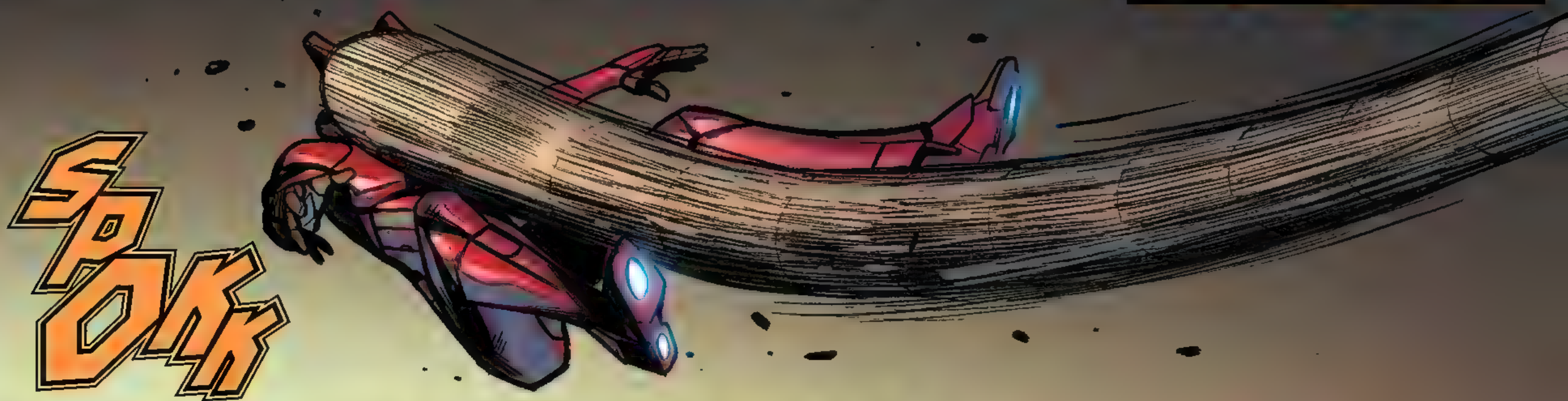
IT STILL MIGHT.

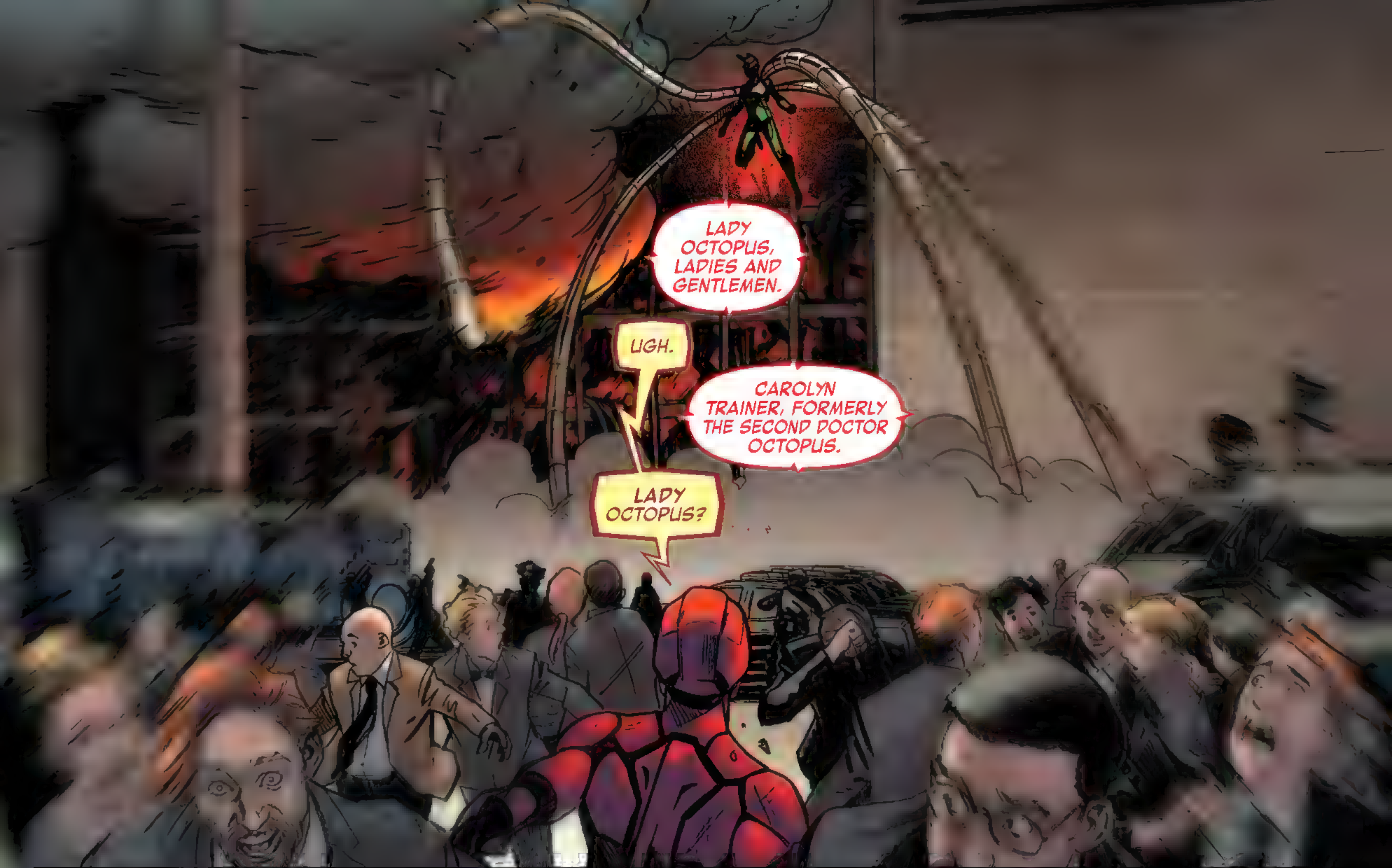


I'M TELLING YOU--THIS IS NEW TERRITORY...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF.

AIEEE!

OH MY GOOOOAAAD!



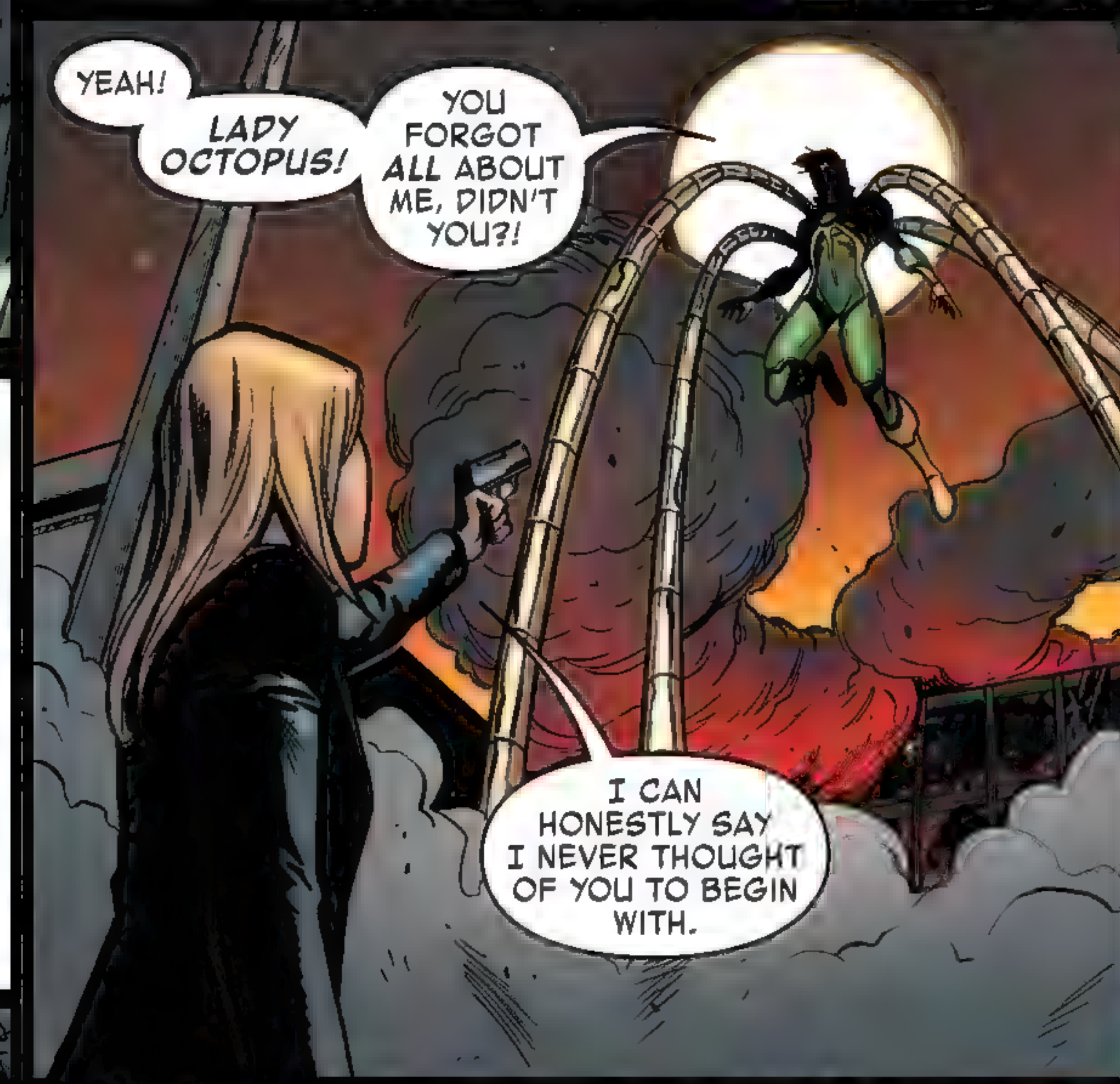


LADY OCTOPUS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

LIGH.

CAROLYN TRAINER, FORMERLY THE SECOND DOCTOR OCTOPUS.

LADY OCTOPUS?



YEAH!

LADY OCTOPUS!

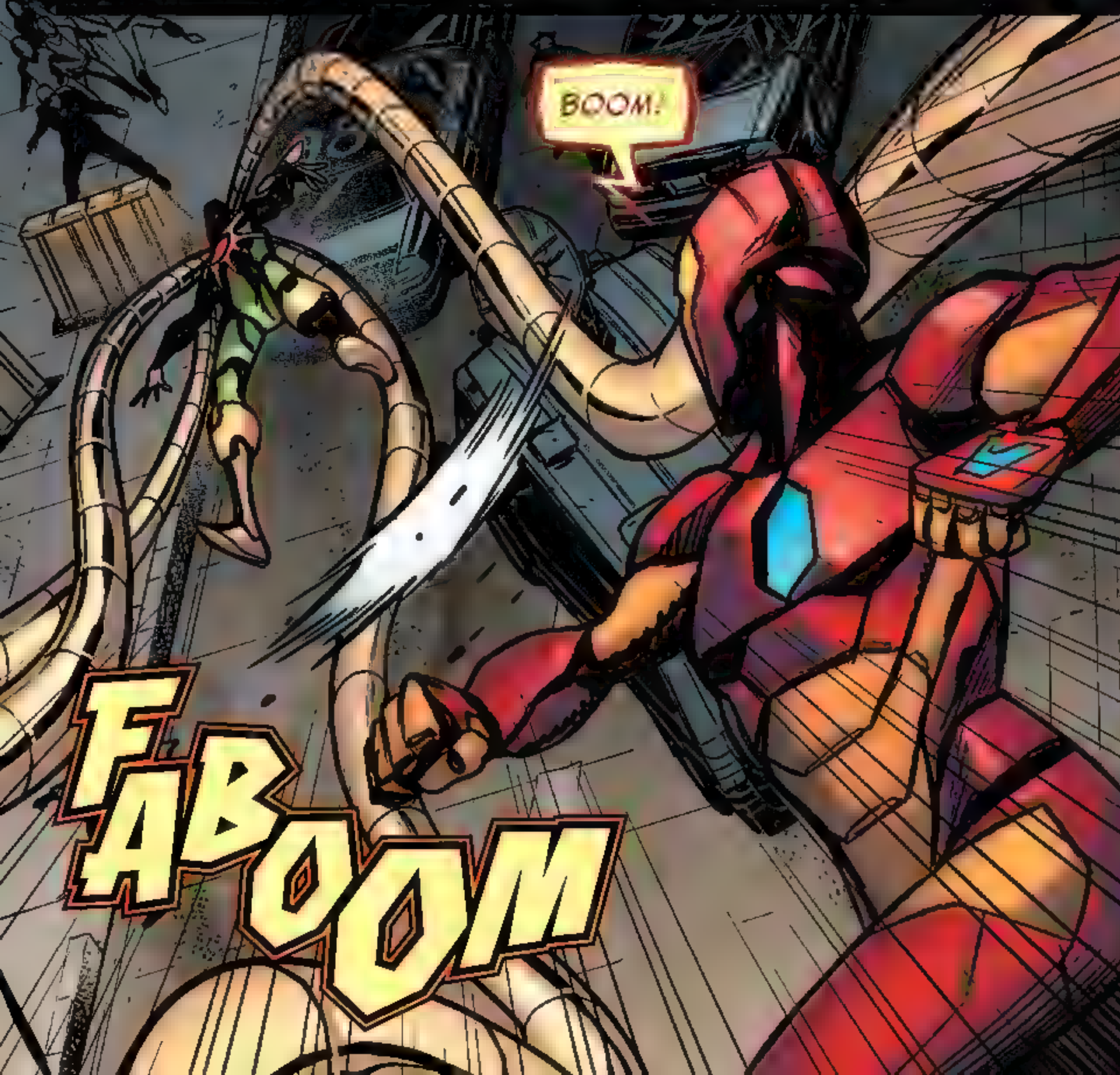
YOU FORGOT ALL ABOUT ME, DIDN'T YOU?!

I CAN HONESTLY SAY I NEVER THOUGHT OF YOU TO BEGIN WITH.



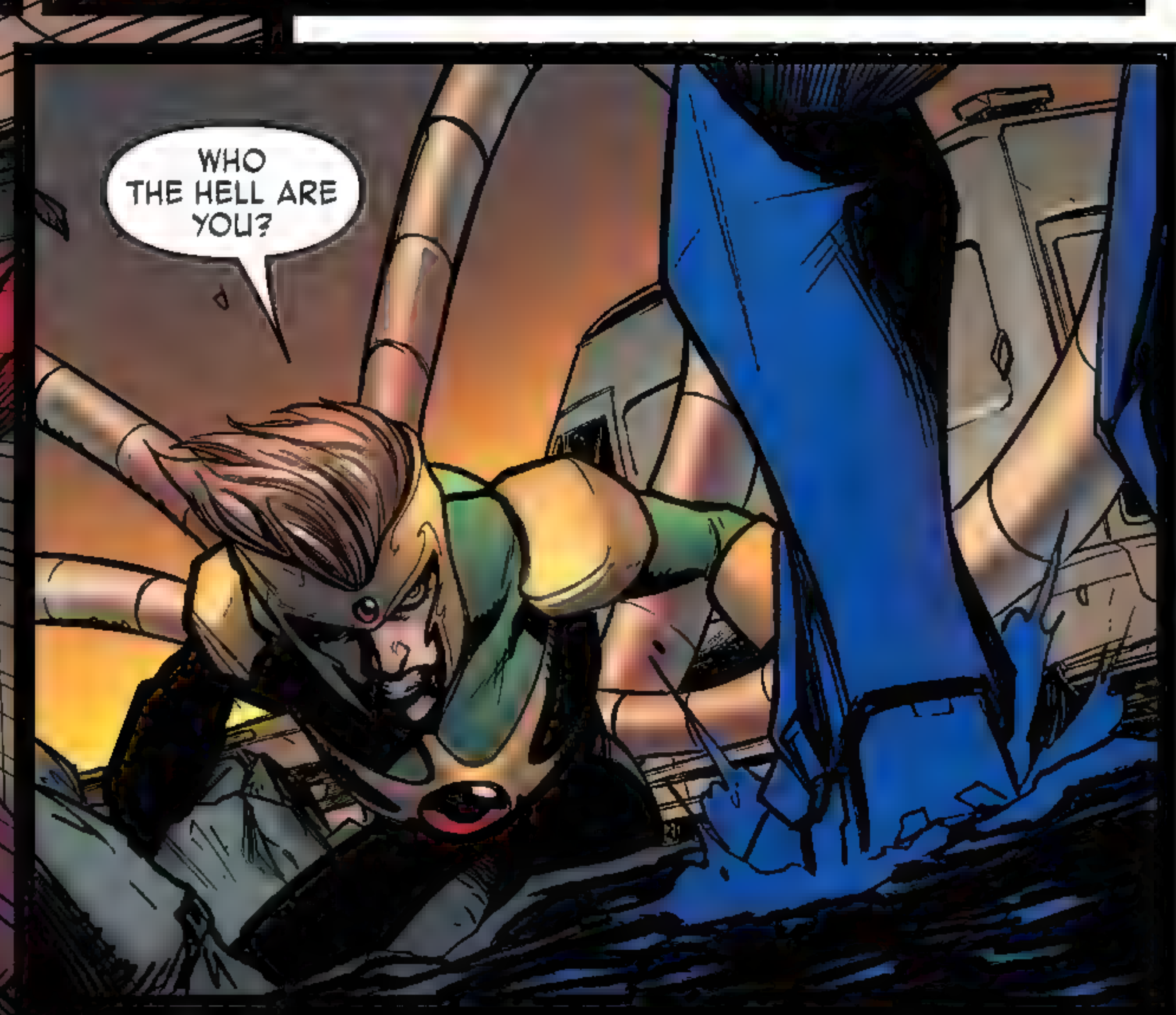
OH, IS THAT HOW IT IS? WELL, YOU WON'T FORGET ME--

FSHHAAMMM

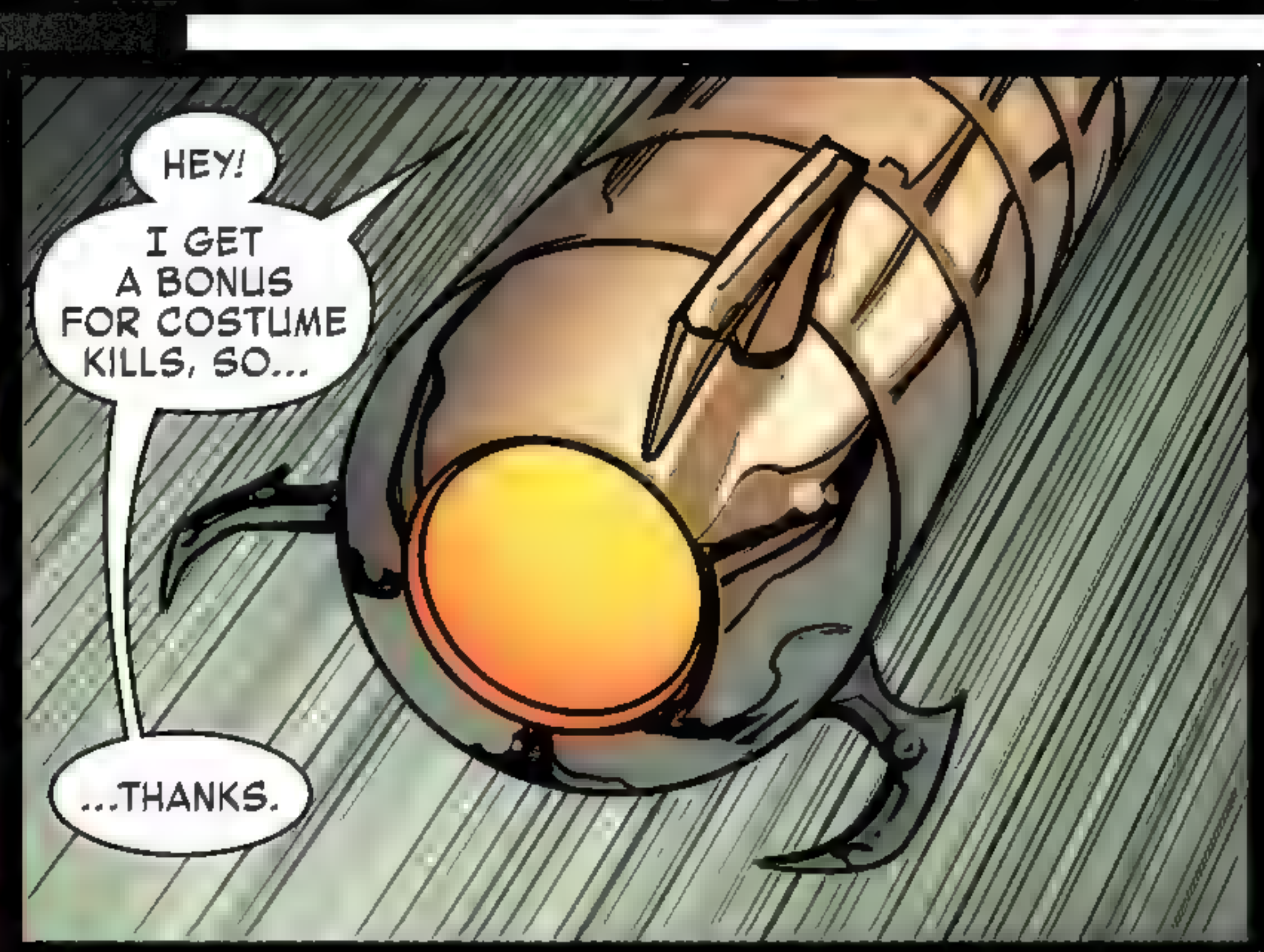
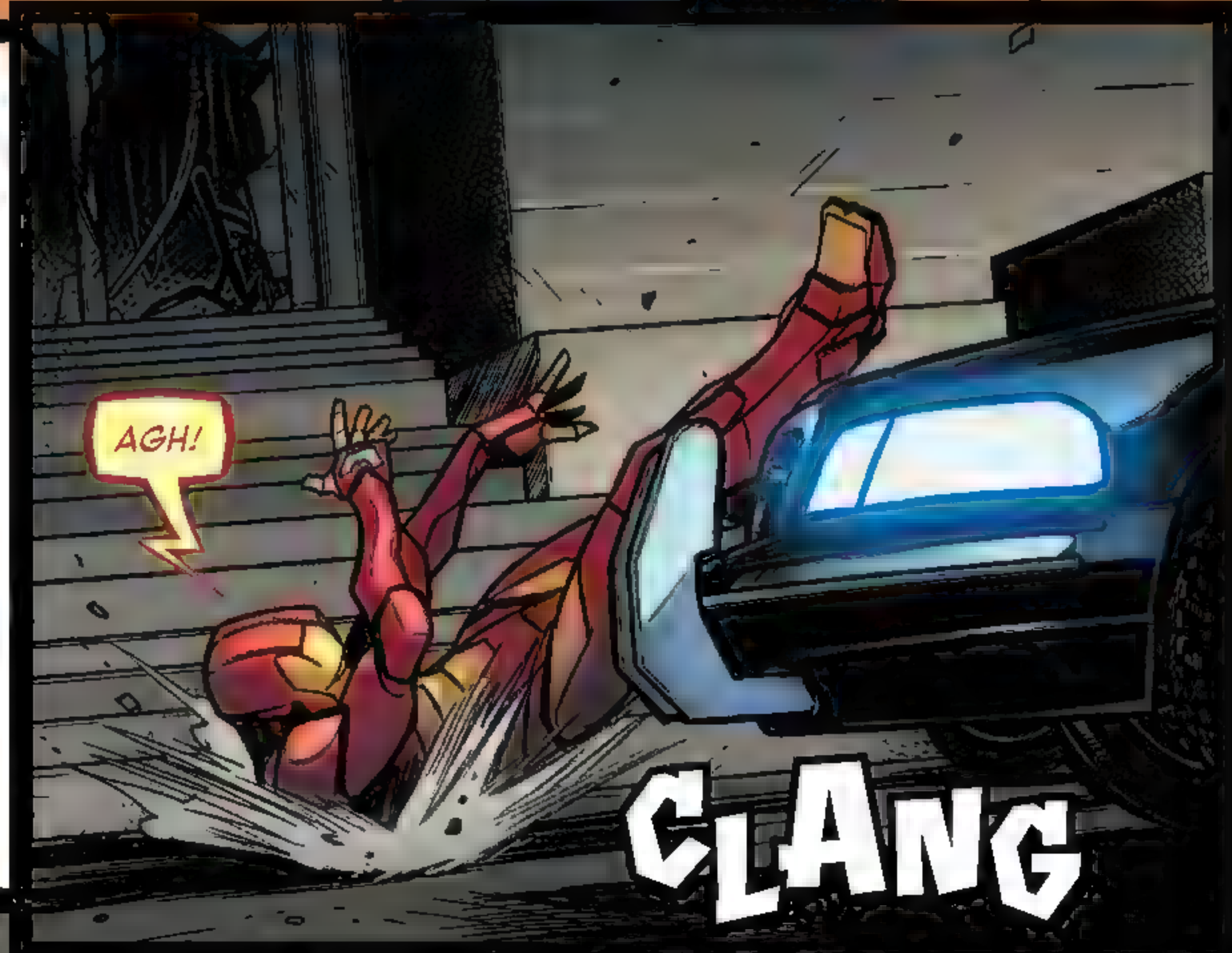
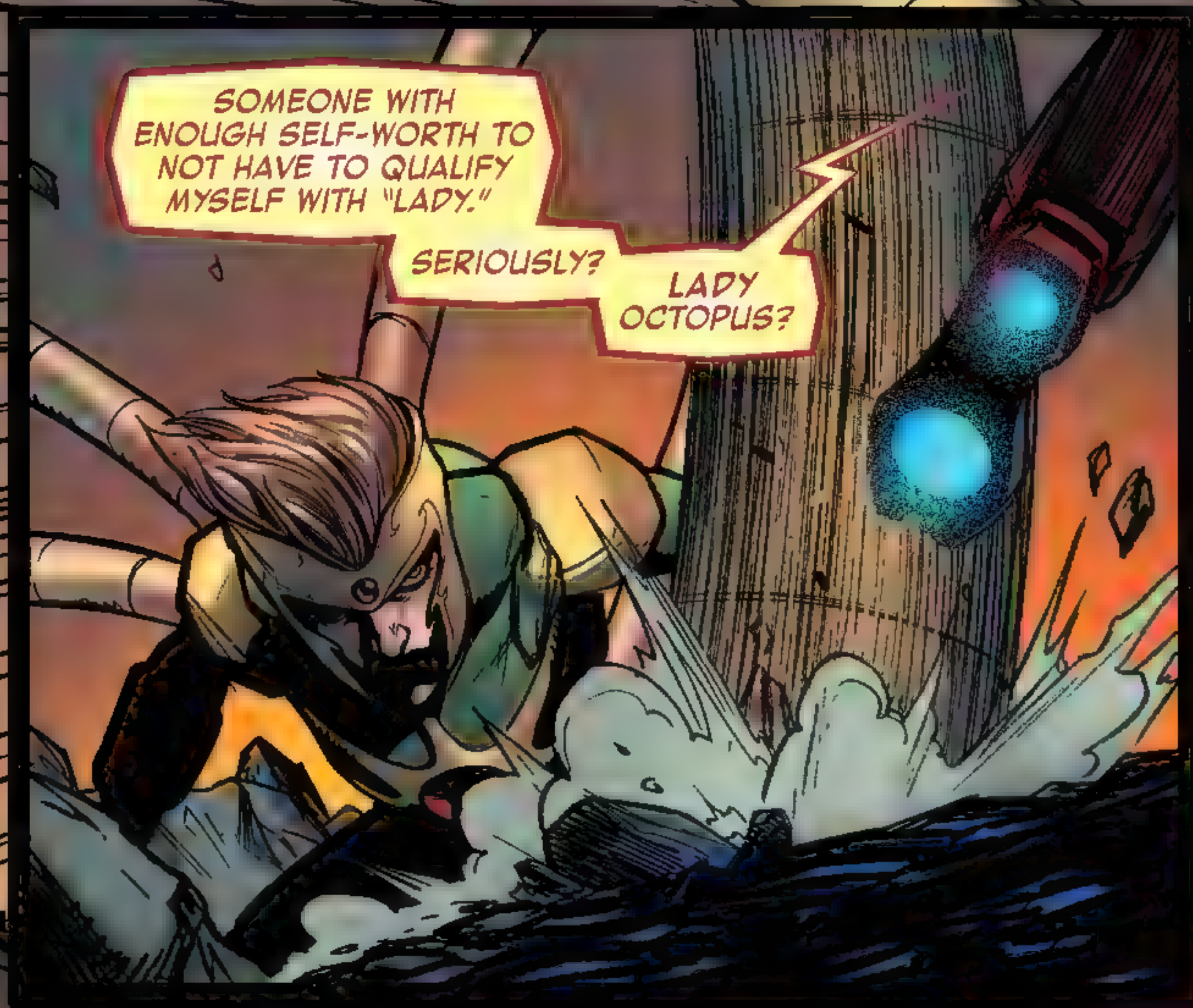


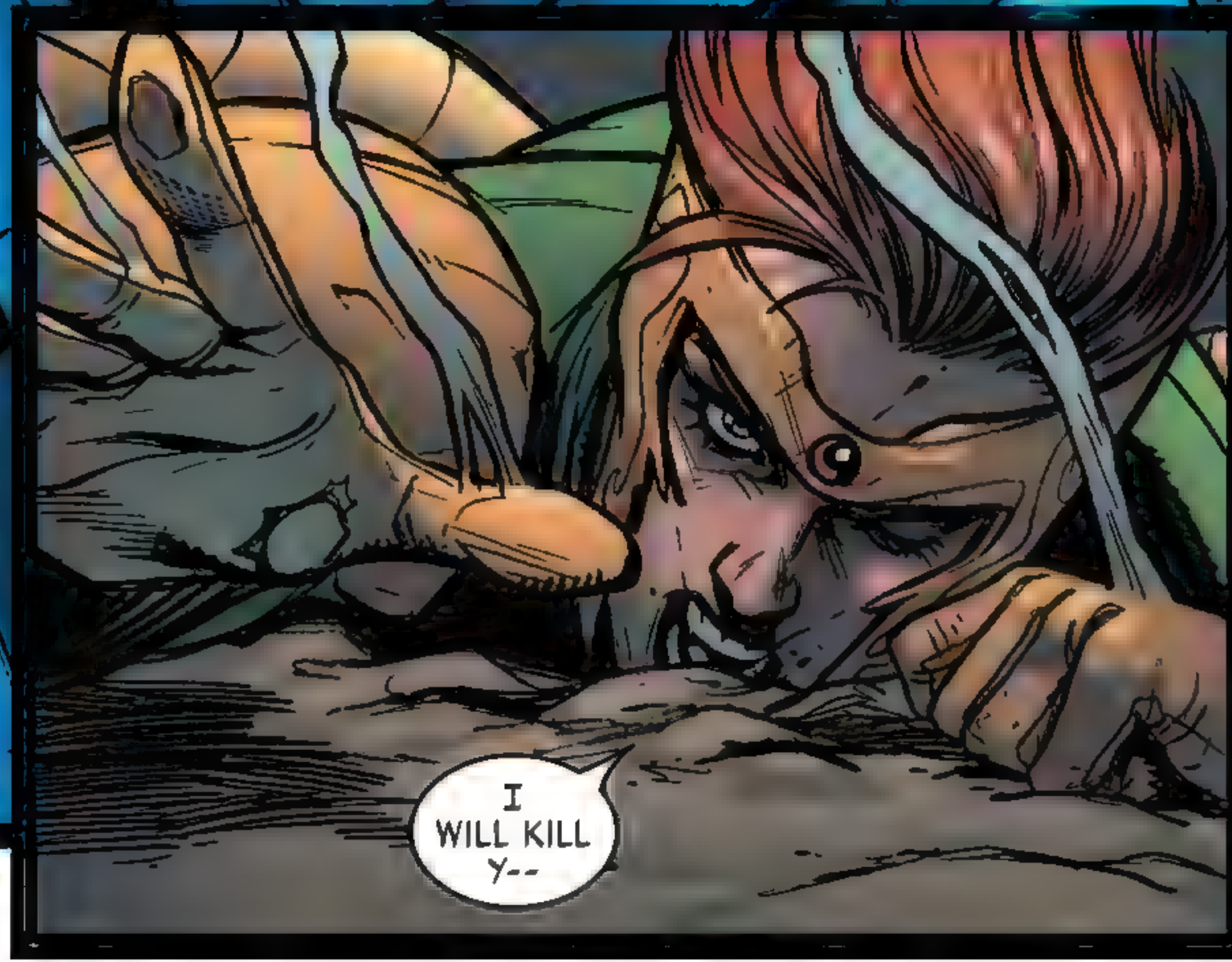
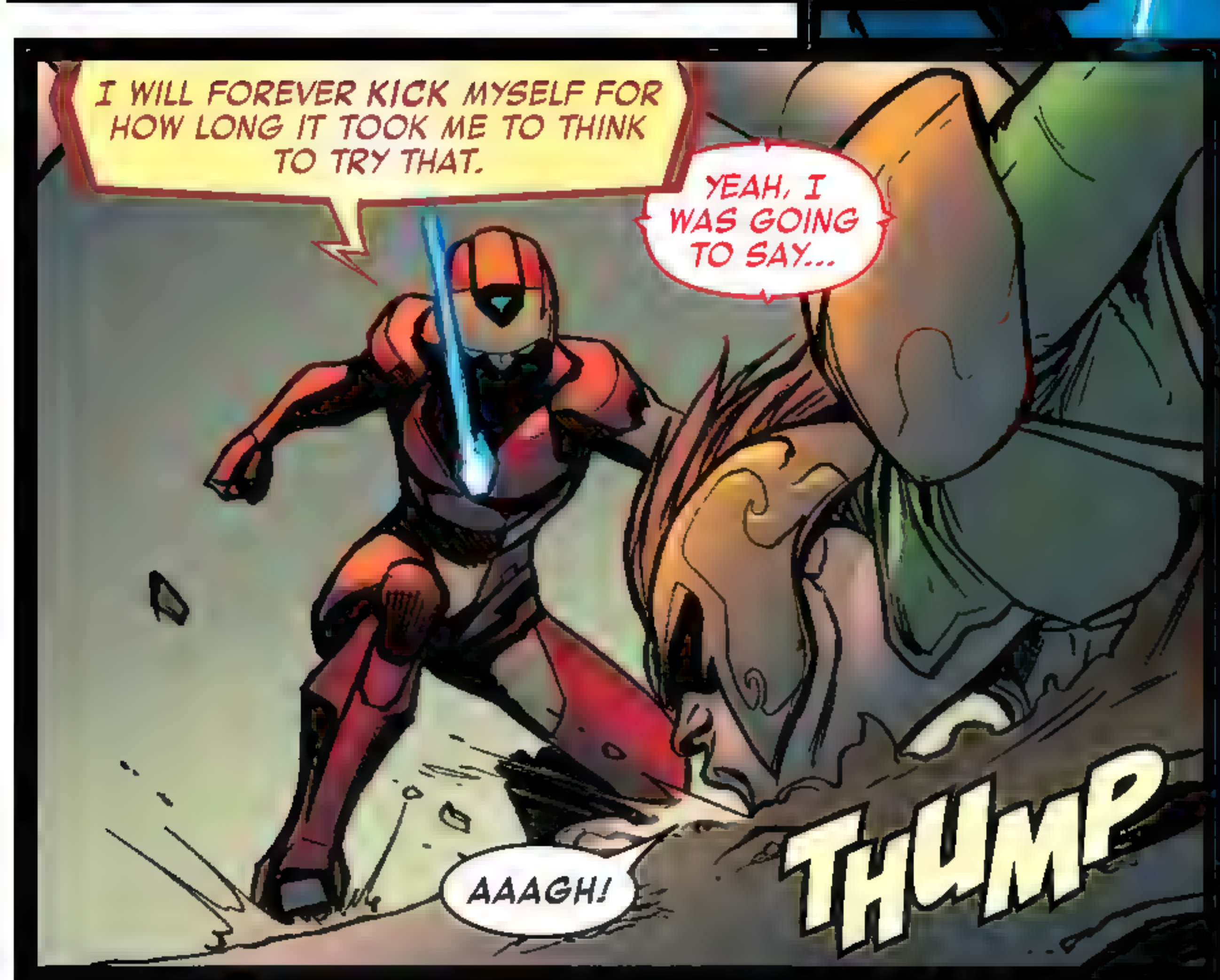
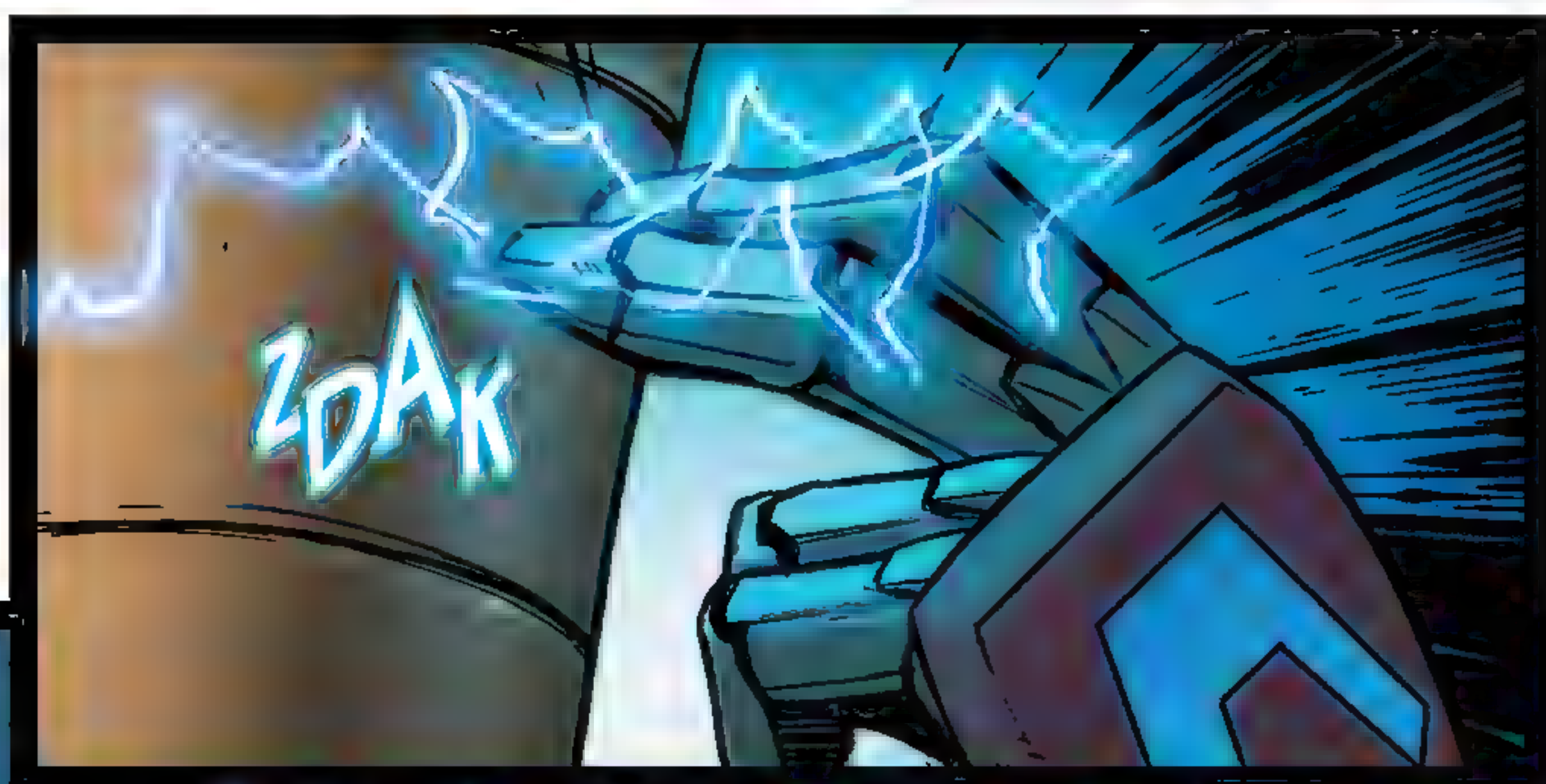
BOOM!

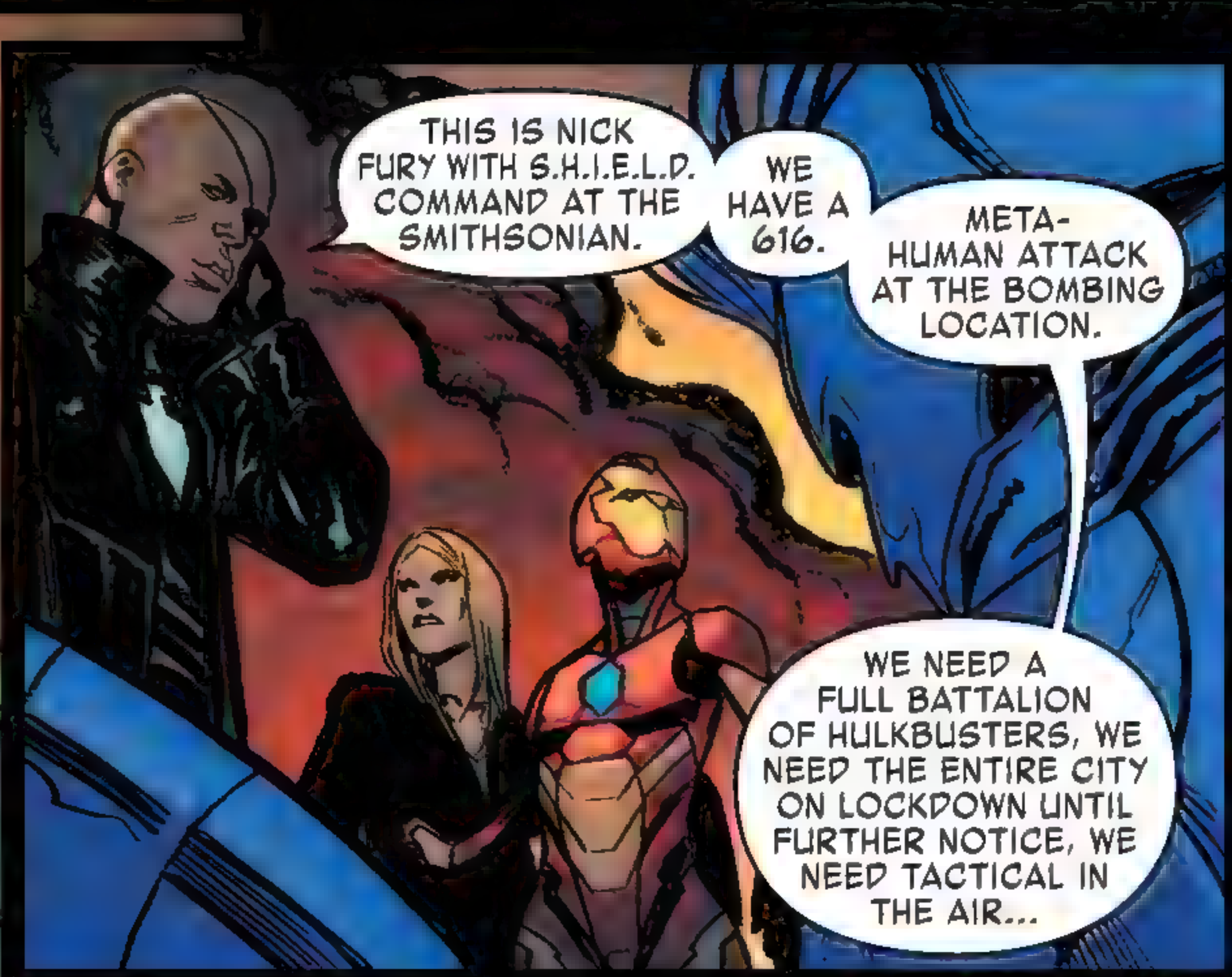
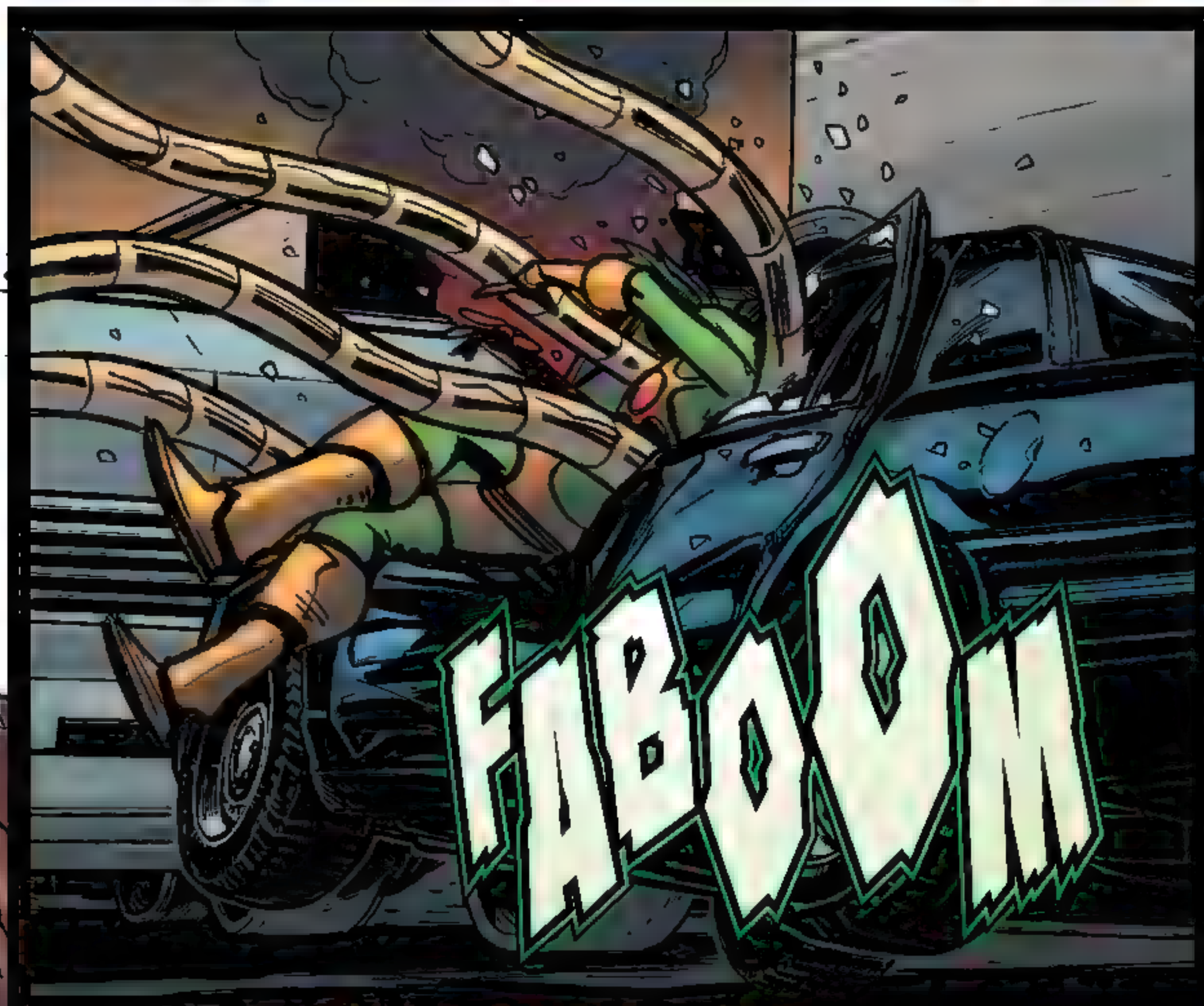
FABOOM



WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?







CHICAGO.
TWO YEARS AGO.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY, RIRI
WILLIAMS!

YES!

NO!

NAT! I TOLD
YOU I DON'T DO
BIRTHDAYS.

IT'S A
WEIRD THING
TO--

HERE, HAPPY
BIRTHDAY.

I DON'T
WANT YOUR
PHONE.

SAY
HELLO INTO
IT.

WHO
IS IT?

YOUR
BIRTHDAY
PRESENT.

HELLO?

YES.

IT'S--IT'S AN HONOR TO SPEAK
WITH YOU, MA'AM.

QUESTIONS, YES, SO
MANY QUESTIONS. UM, OKAY,
WEIGHTLESSNESS.

I AM
WORRIED THAT
WEIGHTLESSNESS
MIGHT TRIG--
UH-HUH.

UH-HUH.
OH, OKAY.

WELL,
UH-HUH.

"THIS IS WHY PEOPLE
HATE AMERICANS..."

...THEY CAN'T PRODUCE A PROPER NEWS BROADCAST.

LATVERIA
RIGHT NOW.

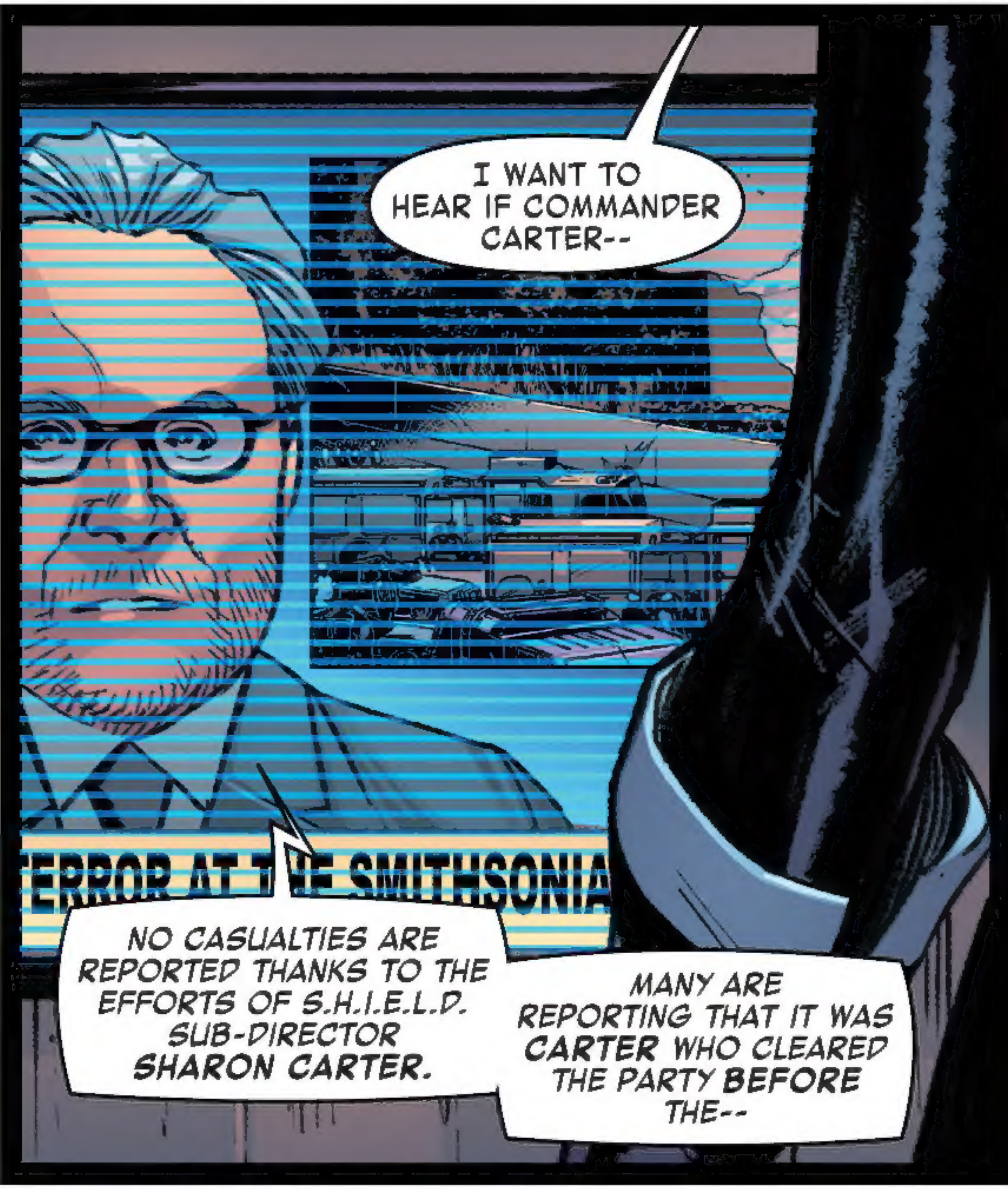


WE'VE BEEN WATCHING THIS THING FOR TEN MINUTES AND THEY HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING, GENERAL KARADICK.

LADY VON BARDAS, S.H.I.E.L.D. CONTROLS THIS MEDIA.

YOU'LL HEAR ONLY WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO HEAR. IT'S A FICTION.

YOU MIGHT AS WELL WATCH CLASSIC STAR TREK. MORE TRUTH.



I WANT TO HEAR IF COMMANDER CARTER--

TERROR AT THE SMITHSONIAN

NO CASUALTIES ARE REPORTED THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. SUB-DIRECTOR SHARON CARTER.

MANY ARE REPORTING THAT IT WAS CARTER WHO CLEARED THE PARTY BEFORE THE--



THAT IS DISAPPOINTING.

THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A MOMENT.

WELL, AS MY MOM ALWAYS SAYS...

... "IT'S NEVER
TOO LATE TO
TURN THE DAY
AROUND."

YOU
WANT A MOMENT,
VON BARDAS? I'LL
GIVE YOU A
MOMENT.



TO BE
CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE:



FROM LATVERIA WITH LOVE!

